DEVELOPMENT (1941) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No.	945
Dated	20-5-1941

[Despatch Abstract.]

Economic Condition - South Kanara distr.
Rice - Shortage - Imports of Stocks from
Burma and Surplus areas in the present
Arrangements - Correspondence with Chief
Controller of Shipping & D-A. papers

C.F. 30.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Received 19 MAR 1941 Registered 79782 19 1943

Subject.

PRICES - Rice - Rise in the price of rice and insufficiency of stock - Shipment from Rangoon - Arrangement requested.

Enclosures.
No.
Spare copies

Ref.C. No. 1759-41-45.

Station Mangalore, *Dated the* 16th March 1941.

From (Name) M. V. Subrahmanyan Esquire, I.C.S.,

(Designation) Collector of South Kanara.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

DEVELOPMENT (PRICES) Department.

Sir,

There has been a sharp rise in the price of rice recently in the district. This was due primarily to a keen demand from Malabar where there was shortage owing to the absence of the usual supply from Burma. It is understood that Burma supplies have since reached Malabar. With the stoppage of this demand the price here should be expected to go down. But there is also another factor operating. It is felt that there has been a serious depletion of the stock in this district owing to the exports already made from this district to Malabar, and that this, coupled with the difficulty

in getting the supply from Burma which this district also normally gets, is bound to lead to a serious shortage during the monsoon months when the Mangalore Port will be closed, and that consequently prices will go higher up. To count this as a factor in keeping or putting up prices even now is unjustifiable; and to meet the situation at the moment, therefore, I have issued a note for publicity, a copy of which is attached, conveying a warning to primary producers, brokers, wholesale merchants and retail merchants against "profiteering"; and I have issued instructions also accordingly to the Revenue Divisional Officers, Tansildars and Deputy Tahsildars. The note also, it may be noticed, conveys the assurance that the aspect of the matter mentioned above, about the apprehended shortage during the monsoon months, will be examined, and special arrangements will, if necessary, be made. It is about that matter I am now addressing the Government.

2. To gauge the extent of the depletion of the stock from this district I called for figures from the Railway, Port and Customs authorities. I have not, however, got those figures completely. As delay is likely to complicate matters, and as arrangements have to be made before the closing of the Mangalore Port in May, I am addressing the Government on the material which I have been able to gather.

3. The representations about this apprehension of shortage were made to me by the Co-operative Central Stores, Mangalore, and by the Kanara Chamber of Commerce. The deputation from the former body, which I met, was of the opinion that the apprehension is real and well-founded, and that one lakh of bags from Burma would be necessary to relieve the situation here, and that in any case 50,000 bags would be the indispensable minimum. Their idea was that the Government should finance and arrange the shipment and place the stock at their disposal for distribution and sale through co-operative societies. My view, however, was that, if the objective could be realised by arrangements through the

usual trade channels, that would certainly be better; and they agreed.

4. Representatives of the Kanara Chamber of Commerce also met me on 15-6-41. It is from them I have gathered the main materials. Their figures are rough, but I have no reason to doubt that they give correctly the general features of the situation and the arrangements required.

5. The position is this. In a normal year there is practically no export from here to Malabar. This year, owing to the sudden demand first referred to above, well over 2 lakhs of muras, as paddy or rice, have been exported to Calicut, Trichur or Cochin. In a normal year, again, about 2 lakhs of muras come in from Bombay in January and February and about 40,000 muras from Mysore and Coorg. Practically nothing has come in from these sources this year, owing to the difficulty of shipment in the former case, and owing to special conditions in Mysore and Coorg in the latter. And again, in a normal year, about 1½ lakhs of muras come in from Burma in February, March and April and this is the main steadying factor in regard to prices; but until now no shipment has arrived this year. Against orders placed for over 30,000 bags, shippers have been able to ship only 10,000 bags by a ship which is due to sail on 16-3-41 and the other orders had to be cancelled. Even this supply is of raw rice which is not the variety primarily required here. What is required here is boiled rice. The result of all this is that unless, before the monsoon sets in when the Port will be closed (15th of May), an adequate supply of Burma rice comes in, there will be a very grave situation in the district - stock being inadequate for consumption, prices shooting up and all the attendant evil consequences. It is imperatively necessary, therefore, that before the Port is closed on the 15th of May, there should be two shipments from Rangoon of 50,000 bags of boiled rice each, one by a steamer leaving Rangoon by the

end of March this year and the other leaving Rangoon between the 15th and 22nd of April.

6. After these conclusions were arrived at during my discussion with the representatives of the Kanara Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber met and passed a resolution, a copy of which is sent herewith. They now want that an estimated tonnage for 2000 tons of rice should be provided, the steamer to leave Burma Ports not later than the end of March 1941, and say that further requirements will be duly communicated as and when there is any change in the prices of rice at Burma and adequate provision for storage at Mangalore. I have ascertained from the President that a further request in this regard will be made in about a fortnight's time.

7. I request accordingly that the Government may be pleased to arrange for shipping space to be provided for Mangalore for 2,000 tons of boiled rice by a steamer leaving the Burma Ports by the end of this month. 2,000 tons will correspond to 25,000 bags. I shall move again for further facilities to be provided when I hear again from the Kanara Chamber of Commerce.

8. The shipping space may be provided to whatever shippers the rationing authorities consider suitable and appropriate on the considerations governing the rationing of shipping space; and the authority providing the shipping space may be requested to wire to me about the availability of the shipping space and the names of the shippers. I shall then give intimation of it to the Kanara Chamber of Commerce. The merchants will then wire their orders to the shippers concerned.

9. I request the favour of urgent action, the reason being, as I have already mentioned, that the Mangalore Port is closed from the 15th of May until about the end of August and the arrangements for getting consignments from Burma will, therefore, have to be made before the Port is closed.

10. I have indicated the seriousness of the situation

above and I am sure the Government will agree that that makes out a special case for preference in the rationing of shipping space, and that the Government will accordingly be pleased to press for the arrangements mentioned above to be made.

16/3/41

Collector.

A note in connection with the price of rice.

The Collector, South Kanara, issues the following note in regard to the price of rice for the information of the public:-

The recent rise in the price of rice has been attributed to a keen demand from Malabar where there was shortage owing to the absence of the usual supply from Burma. There is reason to think that while this may have been an acceptable reason in some areas here, in most areas it was merely made a pretext for putting up prices unreasonably. In any case, it was a temporary reason and now that it is understood that the usual supply of Burma rice has reached Malabar, it cannot any longer hold good. It is also understood that prices are being sought to be put up, and supplies held back, merely on the pretext that owing to the depletion of the stock in the district and an anticipated shortage here during the monsoon particularly owing to the difficulties of getting supply from Burma, prices are bound to go higher. This reason is not acceptable. To bank on such a pretext is pure speculation. Instructions have been given to the Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars that primary producers holding up stock merely on such a pretext and brokers and wholesale merchants trying to corner and hoard up stocks on such a pretext should be warned that they are liable to be proceeded against under the Defence of India Rules for "profiteering"; and that retail merchants should particularly be warned that they have absolutely no reason to charge rates which are unreasonable having regard to the prices which they paid for obtaining stock from the wholesale dealers, and if they are found deviating unjustifiably from the rates fixed by the Prices Advisory Committees, they are liable to be proceeded against under the Defence of India Rules for "profiteering". The Revenue Divisional Officers have also been instructed to see that the whole aspect of the matter is carefully considered when the Prices Advisory

committees next settle the prices. All the officers mentioned above have also been instructed to see that cases of "profiteering" by retail merchants with reference to the prices fixed by the Advisory Committees are looked for and reported to me for action and cases of "profiteering" by primary producers and wholesalers as indicated above are also similarly looked for and reported to me for action. I have been making enquiries about the depletion of the stock in the district by supply to Malabar and the necessity for arranging for special supply of Burma rice or for special facilities for shipment to merchants who want to get down Burma rice. After the enquiries are completed I shall duly consider the question of making those special arrangements. Everybody may rest assured that these special arrangements will be made if found necessary.

B

S.Kanara Collector's Office,
Mangalore, 13th March 1941.

Sd/- M.V.Subrahmanyan.
Collector.

(True copy)

Collector.

The Kanara Chamber of Commerce.

Extract from the proceedings of a Meeting of the Members of the Kanara Chamber of Commerce, held on 16-3-1941.

x x

"Resolved that this meeting of the members of the Kanara Chamber of Commerce thanks the Collector of South Kanara for his assurance to move the Government of India to provide adequate tonnage for the import of Rice from Burma.

"Resolved that in view of the high prices prevailing at Burma and in view of the inadequate storage facilities at Mangalore, this meeting suggests to the Collector of South Kanara that an estimated tonnage for 2000 tons of rice may be provided, the steamer to leave Burma Ports not later than the end of March 1941. Any further requirements will be duly communicated as and when there is any change in the prices of Rice at Burma and adequate provision for the storage at Mangalore"

Signed:

S. Nagappa Nayak,
Mahamod Abdul Sakoor,
Abba Latif Sait,
Haroor Achuta Pai
D.S.Kamath,
A.Srinivas Nagappa Churya
S.Narayana Nayak,
H.Narayana Pai,
K.Vasudeva Shenoy,
U.Govinda Kini,
S.M.Kamath,
M.Raghavendra Pai.

Office of the Chamber
Bunder-Mangalore.
16-3-1941.

(True copy)

Sd/- M.Raghavendra Pai,
Hon.Secretary.

(True copy)

16/3/41.
Collector.

16/3/41

2 Drafts

'I'

11

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Telegram No. 7978F/41-1 Dated ~~20-3-1941~~.

Indian Shipping Adviser

'C', p 3 Cr

(TO)

INDSHIPAD

BOMBAY

COLLECTOR (OF) SOUTH KANARA

REPORTS SHORTAGE (OF) BURMA RICE

RESULTING FROM NO SHIPMENTS TO MANGALORE

IMPORTERS SO FAR AAA PLEASE WIRE

WHETHER ANY SHIPMENTS (OF) BOILED RICE

BOOKED TO MANGALORE ARE EN ROUTE OR

EXPECTED SHORTLY AAA ~~IMMEDIATELY~~

REQUEST ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE ATONCE

FOR ~~ATLEAST~~ Shipment TWO THOUSAND TONS to

BEFORE MARCH END. ~~AND FURTHER~~ Acquire

~~Port closes in~~

~~FACILITIES BEFORE MIDDLE (OF)~~ MAY

DEVMENT.

Please wire Collector Mangalore

P.C.

Copy to the Controller of Shipping, Calcutta.
Copy to the Govt. of India, Department of Commerce (with C.L.)
Copy to the Collector of South Kanara.
Copy to the ~~D.I. & C.~~ D.A.

P.C. dept to Controller of Shipping & Collector of S.K. 20/3

20/3 Cr

JK 20/3 Cr

20/3

II

Dev.Dept.

D.O.No. 7978F/41-2 dated 20 -3-41.

My dear Subrahmaniam,

Sub: Economic condition - South Kanara district -Rice - Shortage - Arrangements for shipments.

Ref: Your letter No.1759-41-A5, dated 16-3-1941.

I am to enclose a copy of my telegram to the Indian Shipping Adviser Bombay, No.7978F/41-1 dated 20.3.41

2. The Govt. of India have stated that during the next two or three months the shipping available will be sufficient to carry only about one half of the normal imports from Burma to this Province and that it is hoped that more shipping will be available later. However, the Govt. of India have suggested that in order to economise existing shipping, all shipments of rice from Burma may be allowed only to Madras and then carried by rail to the areas ordinarily served by the West Coast ports. The possibility of this is being investigated I am to ask

14

you to ascertain from importers in your district whether they agree to get their shipments through Madras. This will solve the difficulty of getting all the imports before the monsoon.

3. I am also to enquire whether in the meantime Mangalore importers cannot get their supplies from Cochin or Calicut by sailing vessels or country crafts.

4. As in the present state of shipping it will be difficult to get the imports regularly, I am to request you to keep a keen watch over the situation in the district. If merchants in your district are willing to get their supplies from other surplus sources in this Province, the Provincial Marketing Officer will be asked to put them in touch with such supplies. Please report on this point at once.

5. As regards the note warning against profiteering published by you it is observed that you have also included primary producers in the warning.

B/

See 'A' in Memo 2848/38-4 Dev 94-3 Cus at (B) I & in Press Note No 2038 dt 4-6-40 at (E) and J in Memo No 16508-2 Dev 22-6-40 at (F).

It is not the policy of the Government to interfere with the primary producers, who are just emerging from the recent economic depression ~~improvem~~. You may therefore modify your ~~issue~~ instructions to the subordinate officers ~~accordingly~~ suitably. It is important to see that no scope is given for agrarian trouble. ~~At the same time you should~~ see that merchants and middlemen do not exploit the situation by trying to ~~inflate prices by holding up stocks~~.

6. The Government have received a letter from Mr. J.A. Saldanha, M.L.C. stating that in the district the price of rice and other foodstuffs are going up and that there is unemployment among coffee labourers. I am to ask whether there is any actual unemployment or distress in the district.

Yours sincerely,

Secret D.O. Cir. 7396-Gen/41 dt. 15-10-41 Secy. on 15/3/41.

To

M.V. Subrahmanyam Esq. I.C.S.,
Collector of South Kanara.

Copy to L.B. Green Esq.,
D.I.&C.
with ref. to para. 4.

Copy to Director of Agriculture

Rest 10 days

JK
22/3 7-10 am

17

U.

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE

This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Charges to pay. Rs. As.

Office Stamp. 21 MAR 21

Handed in at (Office of Origin).	Date.	Hour.	Minute.	Service Instructions.	Words.
		15	45		

TO

Recd. here at 17 H. 35 M.

X P I BOMBAY NAVY WIRELESS 21 STE 40

DEVMENT MADRAS MOUNT RD

YR TEL 7978 F. =/41/1 DATED 20 TH HAVE WIRED SHIPPI

CONTROLLER CALCUTTA TO WIRE YOU INFORMATION RE BRITIS

EGISTERED SHIPS STOP SCINDIA HAVE NO SUCH SHIPMENTS A

PRESENT WILL WIRE AGAIN = 1236/21 INDSHIPAD

N. B.—The name of the Sender, if telegraphed, is written after the text.

al Chand & Sons, Printers, Calcutta—2933 (B-255)—24-1-40—30,000 Bks.

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

19

NOTICE

This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Charges to pay.

Rs.	As.

MOUNT ROAD Post Office Stamp TEL. 22 MAR 41

Handed in at (Office of Origin)	Date.	Hour.	Minute.	Service Instructions.	Words.

TO

Recd. here at 10 H. 58 M.

O OB CALCUTTA 22 STE 26 DEVEMENT MADRAS MOUNT RD =

YOUR TELEGRAM TO DAVIS BOMBAY ONE THOUSAND TONS ARE

EN ROUTE MANGALORE AND FURTHER QUANTITY ON POINT OF

DEPARTURE = CONTROSHIP

N. B.—The name of the Sender, if telegraphed, is written after the text.

Lal Chand & Sons, Printers, Calcutta—2933 (B-255)—24-1-40—30,000 Sets.

7

Telegram
dispd
M
23/3
3.40 P.M.

Telegram

23.3.41

To Collector
Mangalore

Following Telegram received
from Controship today Begins
one thousand tons are enroute
Mangalore and further quantity
on Event of departure Ends
Document

JK
23/3

Post copy ✓
Copy to Bd of Rev

Dep/W
23/3/41

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
24 MAR 1941
DEVELOPMENT

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
COMMERCE DEPARTMENT,

8526 F
24/1

EXPRESS LETTER

[*N. B.—This is an ORIGINAL MESSAGE, sent by post to save telegraphic expense and undue use of the wires, but intended to be treated, on receipt, with the same expedition as if it had been telegraphed. To save time and formalities it is worded and signed as if it had been so despatched.*]

FROM

The Indian Shipping Adviser,
Amar Building, Phirozsha Mehta Road,
Bombay.

To

The Secy. to the Govt. of Madras,
Devlopment Department,
Madras.

No. S.A.(B)1/10 *Dated* 22nd March *1941*.

Your telegram 7978 F/41/1 of 20th March and my reply 1236/21 of 21st March. Information now received that a vessel under management of B.I.S.N. Company now loading rice at Bassein for Mangalore, or may have just left. No information regarding quantity or type of rice.

INDIAN SHIPPING ADVISER.

MFP—1014 S&P—(M.1645)—29-11-39—400,000.

copied 16/2/43 16/2/43

D. Sr. dept.

Memo No. 7978F/41-3 dt. 24.3.41

Economic condition - South Canara District - Rice - Mortgage - Arrangements for Shipments. - Continuation of Telegram dt. 23-3-41

A copy of an express letter No. S. A. (B) 1/10 dt. 22-3-41 received from the Indian Shipping Adviser is communicated to the Collector of South Canara for information.

To the Collector of S. Canara.

MS 24/3/41.

In the telegram quoted above the information received from the Controller of shipping Calcutta in regard to shipments by British registered ships was communicated to the Collector of S. Canara

2. Information

24

has since been recd p 214
from the Indian Shipping
Advice, Bombay, that
a vessel under the
management of the
Br. India Steam Navign Coy.
is now loading rice at
Bassein for Mangalore
or may have just left.
There is no information
regarding the quantity
or type of rice loaded

24/5/41

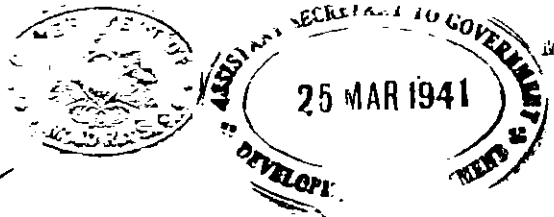
24/3 CMs

To the Collr of S. Kan
Copy to Bd of Rev

Van
Did br
der
dee
D 25 3 1

Ref. A5-1759-41.
D.O.

S.Kanara Collector's Office,
Mangalore, 23rd March 1941.



8701F
25/3

Cor
25/3

My dear Menon,

Subject:- Economic condition - South Kanara District - Rice - Shortage - Arrangements for shipments.

pp 13-15 ante

Reference:- Your D.O.No.7978-F/41-2 dated 20th March 1941.

I am consulting the Kanara Chamber of Commerce upon the points raised in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of your D.O. and I am also arranging to meet representatives of that Chamber on the 25th. After discussing the points with them I shall send my reply to you on those points.

paras, pp 14-15 ante

2. As the action taken would have lost considerably in efficacy if primary producers had been completely left out, since the whole situation would have been upset if the normal flow of rice to the market were to be checked at the source, and it would also have afforded an excuse to merchants to plead that they were themselves blameless and it was the

producers whose action led to prices rising steeply, I included primary producers also in the warning. But of course the intention was to have an eye only on big growers holding considerable stock who held them up unreasonably and whose action, by its own effect and by example, would lead to substantial blocking of the normal flow of the commodity to the market. I am now making this quite clear to the subordinate officers.

Yours sincerely,

27 Aug

Sri Rao Bahadur C.P.Karunakara Menon,
Secretary to Government, Development Department,
Fort St.George, Madras.

423

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT 26 MAR 1941

MADRAS 26 MAR 41

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

Received here at _____ H. _____ M.

880

O L MANGALORE KNA 26 STE 45 DEVMENT MADRA

YOUR TELEGRAM 16/20 DATED TWENTYTHIRD INSTANT

THOUSAND TONS ALREADY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN MAKING

PREVIOUS REQUEST NO INFORMATION LOCALLY CONFIRMING

CONTROSIPS REFERENCE ABOUT FURTHER QUANTITY ON POINT

OF DEPARTURE PRAY ~~REDERAT~~ REITERATE REQUEST TWO

THOUSAND TONS IMMEDIATELY SPECIFICALLY MANGALORE PORT

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time (foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any), and number = COLLECTOR

This form must accompany any inquiry respecting

Chand & Sons, Printers, Calcutta—No. 28 (B-9)—16-5-35—30,000 Bks.

Development Dept.

Telegram ~~Express~~ No. 7578 F/44-4 d/ 26-3-41

To

Controship, Calcutta
Indshipad, Bombay.

Your telegram (d) 22nd
Your express letter SA(B)1/10 (d)

_____ aaa. ~~Collector Mangalore wires~~ 22nd

(~~that~~) ~~his~~ Request for two thousand tons rice ~~is~~ exclusive of ~~small quantity~~ thousand tons reported (to be) enroute aaa. ~~Says~~ Collector Mangalore wires no local confirmation about further quantities on point of departure aaa. Madras Government reiterate request for immediate ~~tonnage~~ Shipping ~~(for)~~ two thousand tons (to) Mangalore port.

26/3 41

P. 19 Cf
P 21 Cf

P 29 Cf

Telegram alone dispd HW 26/3/41. 8 p.m

P.C.
Copy to the Collector of South Kanara.

P.C. dispd 27.3.41

Document
26/3

26/3/41

7w 27/3 10-40 form

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (9)

NOTICE.

This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Charges to pay. Rs. As.

Office Stamp. BOMBAY G.P.O. ROAD TEL. 27MAR41

Handed in at (Office of Origin) | Date. | Hour. 17 | Minute. 20 | Service Instructions.

Rcd. here at 21 H. 41

TO

0 RR BOMBAY J 27 STE 31 DEVMENT MADRAS MT RD

1= YOUR 7978- F -/41/4 OF TWENTYSIXTH STOP HAVE WIRED YOUR REQUEST TO SHIPPING CONTROLLER CALCUTTA STOP SCINDIAS HAVE NO FIXTURES AT PRESENT FOR MANGALORE 1135/27 = INDSHIPAD

N. B.—The name of the Sender, if telegraphed, is written after the text.

Lal Chand & Sons, Printers, Calcutta—2938 (8-255)—24-1-43—83,330 Blks.

Extract of a report read in the Police (Secl) Dept

South Kanara.

There was a sharp rise in the price of rice primarily because of a keen demand from Malabar where there was shortage owing to the absence of the usual supply of Burma rice. This, however, is expected to be temporary as supplies have since reached Malabar. An apprehension, however, has been expressed in representations made to me from some quarters, that there has already been a serious depletion of stock from this district owing to the export to Malabar in this connection and that, if before the beginning of the monsoon, after which the port will be closed, special arrangement is not made to get down consignments of Burma rice by the Government or with the help of the Government, prices will go up and there will be serious shortage also in regard to consumption in the district. The District Magistrate is making enquiries about this and he will send a report to Government shortly. Meanwhile, as both these points are likely to be taken as pretexts for keeping up prices unjustifiably even now, he has issued instructions to the Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars to warn primary producers and wholesale merchants that, if they do any hoarding under these pretexts, they will be proceeded against for 'profiteering' and to warn all retail merchants that, if they put up prices without reference to what they have paid to wholesalers for their stock and without reference to the prices as fixed by the Prices Advisory Committee, will also be proceeded against.

A steamer is on its way to Mangalore with 1000 tons of Burma rice. More is to come
C.P.K.
24-3-41.

pls write

pp 1-5 write

pp 7-8 write

Please find out what he is doing and get copy of instructions issued by him.
H.M.H.
27.3.

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE.

This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Charges to pay. Rs. As.

Office Stamp

TEL. 29 MAR 41

Handed in at (Office of Origin).	Date.	Hour.	Minute.	Service Instructions.	Words.

TO

Recd. here at H. M.

O NK CALCUTTA 29 STE 16 DEVEMENT MADRAS MT RD

YOUR 7978- F /41 26 TH CONFERENCE ARE ENDEAVOURING MEET

MANGALORE REQUIREMENTS = CONTROSHIP =

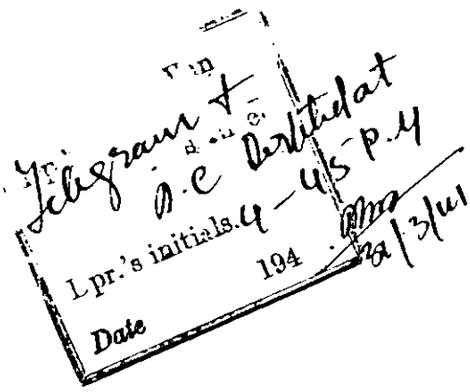
N.B.—The name of the Sender, if telegraphed, is written after the text.

Lal Chand & Sons, Printers, Calcutta—2933 (B-255)—24-1-40—30,000 Sets.

Dev. dept.

Telegram 7878 F/41-5 dt 31.3.44

~~Express~~



To

Collector
Mangalore

Reference your telegram dt 25-3-44

~~Following telegram received from~~ Controller Shipping ~~Conference are~~ endeavouring meet Mangalore requirements ~~reads~~

Dev ment

Dev ment

Reference your telegram (d) 25th and Shipping Controller reports (that) Conference lines (are) endeavouring (to) meet Mangalore requirements.

DEVMENT.

24
30.3.44

31/3

30/3/44.

A.S.

The main file was

submitted to A.S.

Not available 24-3-44.

31/3

30/3/44.

DEVELOPMENT DEPT.

D.O.No. 7978F/41-6 dated 1.4.41.

My dear Subramanian,

Economic condition - Rice - Shortage - Your D.O.Ref.No. A5-1759-41 dated 23-3-41.

It would appear that even in your revised instructions you have objected to big growers holding up stocks as you think they would thereby be blocking the normal flow of rice into the market. It was pointed out in para 5 of my D.O.No.7978-F/41-2 dated 20-3-41 that it was not the policy of the Govt. to interfere with the primary producers who are emerging from ~~the~~ an economic depression. That applies to all producers, whether small or big, and so far the Govt. have not thought of interfering with the producer holding up his stock, whatever may be the quantity, in order to obtain higher prices. I am therefore, to say that it ~~is not desirable for~~ will not be in order if you ~~to~~ issue any ~~orders~~ instructions at this stage which will lead to interference with the primary producer. Your revised instructions would thus seem to require further revision.

I am to request you to submit to Govt. copies of your instructions on this subject, both original and revised.

Yours sincerely,

1/4/41

M.V.Subramanyan Esq.,I.C.S.,
Collector of South Kanara,
MANGALORE.

9262 F

D.O.Ref.No.175/F/41 S.Kanara Collector's Office,

Camp: Pallikere, 29- 3- 1941.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
31 MAR 1941
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

My dear Menon,

Subject:- Economic condition - South Kanara District- Rice - Shortage - Arrangements for shipments -

Reference:- (1) Your D.O.No.7978-F/41-2, dated 20.3.41.

(2) My D.O.letter Ref.A5-1759-41 dated 23.3.41.

****

I consulted the Kanara Chamber of Commerce, Mangalore and also met representatives of the Chamber on 25-3-41 and discussed the matter with them.

2. I enclose a copy of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of a letter sent by the Chamber which meets the points raised in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of your D.O. dated 20-3-41.

3. I am convinced that for the present the best arrangement would be, if possible, to get a shipment straight to Mangalore.

4. I consulted the Chamber also about the information conveyed in your telegram 16/20 dated 23.3.41. I found that the quantity of 1,000 tons referred to there had already been taken into account when the request for 2,000 tons was made, and that there was no information here to confirm the Shipping Controller's information that further quantity was on the point of departure. I, therefore, decided that it was necessary that the request for 2,000 tons should be re-iterated and I sent a telegram to you accordingly on the 26th. I find from the Post-copy sent to me of a telegram dated 26-3-41 sent by the Government to the Controller of Shipping, Calcutta and the Indian Shipping Adviser, Bombay, that the Government have been pleased to re-iterate the request.

5. Meanwhile on receipt of Government Memorandum No. 7978/F-41-3 dated 24.3.41 I consulted the Chamber again. From a reply received by them I gather that this was the 1,000 tons which I had already been taken into account and that the 2,000 tons asked for is still immediately necessary.

I request therefore that the Government may be pleased to continue to press for this shipment.

Yours sincerely,

29/Jan.

Sri Rao Bahadur C. P. Karunakara Menon,
Secretary to Government, Development Department,
Fort St.George, Madras.

Dev. Dept

A.S.
QQS-6 close

Subs. for perusal. Will be resubmitted with the main file.

S.I.S to Secy on 31/3/41

It has been ascertained from the Controller of Shipping that no conference lines are endeavouring to meet the requirements of Mangalore and that 1000 tons have been booked so far Mangalore at Bassein by the B.I.S.N. Co's Ship. This information has been communicated to the Coll: Leo being

CNO S Flag sub S etly

MS 31.3.41

Copy of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the letter dated 24.3.41 from the Kanara Chamber of Commerce, Mangalore to the Collector of South Kanara.

xxx

* * * *

See para 2, pp 13-14 ante

2. Regarding the suggestion for the carriage of rice by rail from Madras to West Coast ports, it is unpracticable to the merchants to import Rice by this route to Mangalore. Ordinarily, the freight for one bag of Rice from Madras to Mangalore is Rs.2-4-0. The landing dues and port charges at the major Port of Madras is heavy and the transhipment charges from the wharf to the goods train yard will also be prohibitive. Even with concessions the Government may provide for, by arrangements with the Railway Authorities, the Committee of the Chamber is of the opinion, that the charge would not be less a rupee per bag. The cost price of one bag of Rice if imported by steamer to-day will be about Rs.9-6-0 per bag or Rs.5-1-3 per moora and if imported via Madras, it will be about Rs.10-6-0 per bag or Rs.5-10-6 per moora. So it will be uneconomical to import Rice via Madras at present in view of the rate of local Rice which is Rs.5-0-0 to Rs.5-4-0 per moora, for the inferior varieties.

See para 3, p 14 ante B

3. The shortage of Rice is not peculiar to the South Kanara District. In the opinion of the Committee, the position at Cochin and Calicut is far worse than in this District. While South Kanara District is producing a major portion of its requirements of Rice, Malabar depends on the imports from Burma to a large extent. Therefore dealers in Malabar may be unwilling to part with their limited stocks except at higher levels than at present ruling there.

See para 4, p 14 ante.

4. The Committee of the Chamber will communiate with the Provincial Marketing Officer, Madras, at an early date.

* * * *

(True copy)

Collector. 9/5

POST COPY OF TELEGRAM. 9050 E

From-The Collector of South Kanara.
To-The Secretary to Government, Development Department, Madras.
Dated-Mangalore, 26th March 1941.

Your Telegram 16/20 dated twenty-third instant. Thousand tons already taken into account when making previous request. No information locally confirming controsip's reference about further quantity on point of departure. Pray re-iterate request two thousand tons immediately specifically Mangalore Port

Collector.

(True Copy)

For Collector.

26.3.41

To The Secretary to Government,
Development Department,
Madras.

Copy of Memo No. 6765 Fin. - dated 2-11-41 to the Collector of South Kanara.

Economic condition — Price — Supplies —

Information has been received from the Controller of Shipping, Calcutta, that 1000 tons of rice have been booked for Mangalore at Rangoon by the B.I.S.N. & Co's Ship Hardinge during the week ending 15-3-41

Calcutta

0687

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

No. 9947

5 APR

Received here at \ H. M.

O LK MANGALORE KNA 5 5 DEVMENT MADRAS =

TELEGRAM RECD HERE FROM RANGOON SHIPPER MENTIONING R

S. N GRANTED STEAMER FROM BASSEIN AND SHIPPER KOTHIRY

ALLOTMENT FIVEHUNDRED TONS TELLICHERRY CANNANORE STOP

PRAY ARRANGE THROUGH MACKINONS CALCUTTA ALLOTMENT

ANGALORE SAME STEAMER THROUGH SHIPPER ALARAKHIA KARSAN

OR ANY OTHER SHIPPER REQUISITE TWO THOUSAND TONS OR

WHATEVER FEASIBLE = COLLECTOR

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is ..., serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any), and number of words.

This form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

Lal Chand & Sons, Printers, Calcutta.—No. 447 R (B-95)—24-5-40—30,000 Blks.

0687

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT. 994

5 APR

Received here at ____ H. ____ M.

D L K MANGALORE KNA 5 5 DEVMENT MADRAS

TELEGRAM RECD HERE FROM RANGOON SHIPPER MENTIONING B

S N GRANTED STEAMER FROM BASSEIN AND SHIPPER KOTHIRY

ALLOTMENT FIVEHUNDRED TONS TELLICHERRY CANNANORE STOP

KAL ARRANGE THROUGH MACKINONS CALCUTTA ALLOTMENT

MANGALORE SAME STEAMER THROUGH SHIPPER ALARAKHIA KARSAN

OR ANY OTHER SHIPPER REQUISITE TWO THOUSAND TONS OR

WHATEVER FEASIBLE = COLLECTOR

The sequence of entries as the beginning of this telegram is ____, serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any), and number of words.

This form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

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Des Delhi

Telegram No 7978F/41 7-4-41

To

CONTROSHIP
Calcutta

—

p 35 Cf

Your telegram 29th March (re:) Mangalore requirements and Merchants request arrangement through × Messrs Mackinnon Mackenzie (for) allotment of two thousand tons (to) Mangalore on (a) BISN steamer from Bassein carrying rice to Jellicherry (x)

× agent for BISN Co

5/4/41

Copy to Chy, Sikang.

Despatch

JU
6/4

COM
7/4

Telegram & p.c. copied 7.4.41

Telegram & p.c. posted.

7/4.

53

South Kanara Collector's Office,
Mangalore, 4th April 1941.

From

10014/1941

M. V. Subrahmanyan, Esq., I.C.S.,
Collector of South Kanara.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Development Department,
Madras.

Sir,

Rice shortage - Shipping facilities - arrangements for -

In continuation of the previous correspondence in the matter, I enclose a copy of the letter dated 4.4.1941 from the Kanara Chamber of Commerce, Mangalore. I request that in view of the facts set out therein the Controller of Shipping may be requested to make the arrangements required for shipping ----- facilities himself.

For Collector.

The Kanara Chamber of Commerce.

Bunder,
Mangalore, 4th April 1941.

To

The Collector of South Kanara,
Mangalore.

Sir,

Economic condition - Rice shortage - shipping arrangements.

I am to reply to your letter dated 3.4.1941.

The Committee of the Chamber regrets to note that the Controller of Shipping, has shifted the responsibility for providing sufficient tonnage for the import of 2000 tons of Rice to Mangalore, to the Conference Liners, who, we understand, are hard pressed by every Exporter at Burma Ports and Importer in the Indian Ports, to fulfil their individual needs.

On 31.3.1941 I, on behalf of the Chamber, sent a wire to the Scindia Steam Navigation Co.Ltd., Bombay, one of the Conference liners, to arrange for shipping space for atleast 2000 tons of Rice to which they have sent the following reply.

"MERCHANTS CHAMBER YOURS REGRET REQUIRED TONNAGE UNAVAILABLE HOWEVER TRYING JALANATH".

While the local merchants are trying to maintain low prices, reports from other centres in the West Coast and Bombay in particular indicate a substantial rise in the price of Rice. Therefore the ----- Committee of the Chamber requests you to again apprise the Provincial Government, by telegraphic communication, of the plight of the consumers in the matter of rise in the price of Rice and the necessity for ----- immediate provision of shipping facilities, by pressing the Shipping Companies to ~~pe~~ provide the necessary tonnage.

I have &c.,
Sd/- M.Raghavendra Pai,
Hon.Secretary.

Today 27/4/41

D.O. R[illegible]/41. 10261F 9/4/41 S.Kanara Collector's Office,
Mangalore, 7th April 1941.

ASST SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT 9 APR 1941 DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

My dear Menon,

Economic condition - Rice - Shortage

p.35 ante Your D.O.No.7978-F/41-6 dated 1st April 1941.
p.67 ante Memorandum No.4765F/41-21 dated 2nd April 1941.

****

pp.57-58 infra 1 p.55 infra I enclose copies of the original instructions and the revised instructions issued by me.

p.35 ante 2. In view of what you have stated I propose to issue now, if the Government approve, the following further instructions to subordinate officers:-

> "As it is not the intention of the Government at present to interfere with primary producers at all no action need now be taken in regard to any type of primary producers".

3. I propose also, if the Government approve, to issue the following 'Further Note in connection with the price of rice' for publicity (a copy of the previous note* was sent to you with my letter Ref.Ab-1750-41 dated 16-5-41):-

pp.67-8 ante pp.1-5 ante

> "With reference to the note issued on 13-5-41 the Collector wishes to make it clear, in order to remove misapprehensions, that it is not proposed to interfere with the ryots' normal seasonal operations of holding over stock until they have a favourable opportunity to sell.
>
> The Collector wishes to add, with reference to the assurance conveyed in the previous note, that the Government are making arrangements to secure for this district an adequate supply of Burma rice or a supply from surplus areas of this Province, and there is no reason, therefore, to apprehend any shortage here".

Seems unnecessary Cr

to Mysore Cr

4. With reference to the Memorandum cited above, I wish to state that this is the ship which arrived here with about 1,000 tons and that this quantity had already been taken into account before making the request for the further 2,000 tons which we have all along been making - please

see my D.O. dated 29.3.41 also. It was upon that footing that my telegram dated 5-4-41 was sent too.

Yours sincerely,

7/4/41

Sri Rao Bahadur C. P. Karunakara Menon,
Secretary to Government, Development Department,
Fort St.George, Madras.

Very Urgent.
Ref. A5-1759-41

S.Kanara Collector's Office,
Camp: Uppinangady, 10-6-1941.

M. V. Subrahmanyan Esquire, I.C.S.
Collector of South Kanara.

Circular Memorandum.

Prices - Rice - Rise in the price of - Instructions issued.

The recent rise in the price of rice has been attributed to a keen demand from Malabar where there was shortage owing to the absence of the usual supply from Burma. There is reason to think that while this may have been an acceptable reason in some areas here, in most areas it was merely made a pretext for putting up prices unreasonably. In any case, it was a temporary reason and now that it is understood that the usual supply of Burma rice has reached Malabar, it cannot any longer hold good. It is also understood that prices are being sought to be put up, and supplies held back, merely on the pretext that owing to the depletion of the stock in the district and an anticipated shortage here during the monsoon particularly owing to the difficulties of getting supply from Burma, prices are bound to go higher. This reason is not acceptable. To bank on such a pretext is pure speculation. Primary producers holding up stock merely on such a pretext and brokers and wholesale merchants trying to corner and hoard up stocks on such a pretext should be warned that they are liable to be proceeded against under the Defence of India Rules for "profiteering". Retail merchants should particularly be warned that they have absolutely no reason to charge rates which are unreasonable having regard to the prices which they paid for obtaining stock from the wholesale dealers, and if they are found deviating unjustifiably from the rates fixed by the Prices Advisory Committees, they are liable to be proceeded against under the Defence of India Rules for "profiteering". The whole aspect of the matter should be carefully considered when the Prices Advisory Committees next settle the prices. And

cases of "profiteering" with reference to the prices fixed by the Advisory Committees should be looked for and reported to me for action. Cases of "profiteering" by primary producers and wholesalers as indicated above should also be looked for and reported to me for action. I have already called for reports from the Revenue Divisional Officers about the depletion of the stock in the district by supply to Malabar and the necessity for arranging for special supply of Burma rice or for special facilities for shipment to merchants who want to get down Burma rice. The Revenue Divisional Officers are requested to expedite their replies. I shall then consider the question of making those special arrangements. It should be explained to everybody that these special arrangements will be made if found necessary.

Sd/- M.V.Subrahmanyan,

Collector.

To

All Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars

(True copy)

7/4/41

Collector.

7.4.41

Ref. A5-1759-41.

S.Kanara Collector's Office,
Mangalore, 23rd March 1941.

M. V. Subrahmanyan Esquire, I.C.S.,
Collector of South Kanara.

Circular Memorandum.

Prices - Rice - Rise in the price of - Further instructions issued.

M 57-58 Cmte.

With reference to this office Circular Memorandum No. A5.1759-41 dated 10-3-41, Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars are informed that as far as primary producers are concerned the cases that have to be looked out for as "profiteering" are the cases of big growers holding considerable stock who held up the stock unreasonably and whose action, by its own effect and by example, will tend to block substantially the normal flow of supply to the markets.

Sd/- M.V.Subrahmanyan.
23.3.41.
Collector.

To

All Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars.

(True copy)

Collector 7/4/44

7.4.44

C.-3.

826

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

No.

Received here at ____ H. ____ M.

10309 F

O NB MANGALORE KNA 9 STE 27 DEVMENT MADRAS

= TELEGRAM RECD MANGALORE FROM HAMZAHAMED

RANGOON SHIPPER INDICATES SCINDIA STEAMER

AVAILABLE BUT REFUSED SHIPMENT MANGALORE

STOP PRAY PRESS SHIPMENT MANGALORE IMMEDIATELY

COLLECTOR

63

13.3

Dlr 10/4 - 8.20 a.m

Com 10th

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

No. 103205

Received here at 23

1 month

VC CALCUTTA 9 STE 29 DEVMENT MADRAS

YOUR 7978- F -/41-17 SEVENTH REGRET NO

FURTHER VESSEL AVAILABLE FOR MANGALORE

MEANTIME ~~FULLSTOP~~ SHIPPERS IN RANGOON

AT END MARCH STATED MANGALORE

DEMAND HAD BEEN SATISFIED = CONTROSHIP

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT 10 APR 1941 DEPARTMENT DEVELOPMEN

"The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handed in, serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any), and number of words.

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al Chand & Sons, Printers, Calcutta—No. 447 R (B-95)—24-5-40—30,000 Bks.

64

Dec 1958

subs on 9/9/41. A. H.S.

Subs. for perusal. Will be resubmitted with the main L.O.

MM
To Cal/Cal
24/10/94

II

Der Dead

Telgm No 7978F/8 11-4-41

To

Controship

Calcutta

---

p63Cy

Your telgm (3) mnth
aaa Mangalore demand
not satisfied aaa
Merchants allege on
p61Cy Rangoon advice space
available in a Scindia
steamer has refused
aaa Request early allotment
(for) Mangalore ~~last~~
~~merchants (are) important~~

Telegram sent
to D.C. Cuttack 11/4/41

Document

DC ✓

Copy to Collr of S. Kanara
w.r. to his telgm 3944/41
p61Cy

2 Drafts

I

Secy. Agst.

D. o. No. 7978-F/41-9 dt 19.4.41

My dear Subrahmanyam,

Economic condition — Rice — Shortage

Ref. correspondence ending with your D. o. No. A. 5/1755-Ce. dt 7-Ce-Ce.

— —

I am directed to say that the Govt approve the further instructions in para 2 of your D.o. quoted above which you propose to issue to your subordinate officers with reference to the "Further note on in connection with the price of rice which you propose ~~to be drawn for publication~~ to publish, I am to say that para 1 seems unnecessary and may be omitted. There is no objection to Para 2. ~~above may issue~~.

Copied vr 19.4.41.

Ph. 5-5-55 Cf

Para 3, p 53 Cf.

Secy's orders c. p 51 Cf.

68

As regards your request for the supply of 2000 tons of Burma rice I am to invite your attention to telegram No 7552 dated 7-4-41 from the Controller of Shipping, Calcutta, to all L/a copies of which was sent to you. I am to request you to advise merchants in patient and be influenced by rumours from interested brokers in Rangoon. The shipping authorities may be expected to allot space for shipments to Mangalore as soon as possible.

para 4, pp 55-56 ante.

p 51 ante.

M. V. Subrahmanyam, ICS, Collector of Customs, South Kanara.

Despd 19.4.41.

29/4/41

Rec'd 29/4 Cdh

1944

Dr. Supt.

Telegram no. 7878 F/41-10/23.4

To

Controller
Calcutta.

My telegram (9) eleventh ins
Please say whether
Mangalore
requirements have
been complied with.

Dermont

30.4.41

23.4.41

O.C.

Copy to Mr
Cell & Sanjk
Canara

22.4.41.

22/4/41

lu 25/4. 7-15 pm

C. 11614F

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT 20 APR 1941 DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

NOTICE.

This form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Charges to pay. Rs.	As.	Office Stamp.
		25 APR 41

Handed in at (Office of Origin)	Date.	Hour.	Minute.	Service Instructions.
Santa Cruz		6	5	

TO

Recd. here at 10 H. 35 M.

O PB CALCUTTA 25 STE 44 DEVMENT MADRAS MT RD

YOUR TELEGRAMS OF 11- TH 23- RD INFORMATION HERE IS THAT DEMAND IN RANGOON IS FOR CANNANORE NOT MANGALORE AND PRESENT RESTRICTED TONNAGE IS BEING BERTHED FOR PORTS WHERE DEMAND HEAVIEST FULLSTOP FURTHER TELEGRAPHIC ENQUIRIES ARE BEING MADE RANGOON = CONTROSHIP

N. B.—The name of the Sender, if telegraphed.

Lal Chand & Sons, Printers, Calcutta—2093 (B-255)—24-1-40—30,000 Blks.

Extract from D.O.No.1759-41-A5, from the Collector of South Kanara, dated 27th April 1941.

Press - S. Kanara - Rice other foodstuffs - Your D.O. No. 7376 F/41 dt. 26.3.41 & 7376C/41-3

6. There is every likelihood of the situation worsening all round, however, if immediate arrangements are not made to get a special shipment of Burma rice to this district. It does not appear that the Government have been able to arrange this so far. And it is doubtful now whether there can be a shipment before the Mangalore Port is closed. The alternative of getting an ear-marked shipment to another West Coast port or to Madras and then bringing it on by Rail may therefore, have to be taken up and pursued in that case. In this connection I may also mention that the merchants here have not given the categorical undertaking which I asked for from them, because it underlay the whole scheme of our arrangements, that they would use the stock they recive only for distribution in the district. I particularly asked for this because they exported some of the Burma stock which was last received. I noticed also that some of them charged prices which were prima facie unreasonable for this stock which they recived. I am taking up with the Chamber the question of hauling up these individual merchants for profiteering, and the question of dropping the merchants generally out of the picture altogether and making arrangements instead through other agencies (I had the Co-operative in mind) on the ground that they are not taking steps to keep prices reasonable. I shall report further in this regard. But in any case I think it is quite necessary that exports from the district should be prohibited. A mere undertaking, on the point mentioned above, from the chamber may not be surficient. It is generally felt in the district, and I agree, that that measure is necessary even with reference to existing conditions and irrespective of the stock from elsewhere which is expected to arrive, and will be

15/5 - p 3 ante

Paras 1-3, pp 13-14 & para 2-3 p 41 ante

B

G

F

particularly necessary with reference to that stock. I have already mooted the point in my report to the Board. I request that the Government may be pleased to pass early orders on this point. The whole situation is causing anxiety at present; and it will be relieved only if orders prohibiting exports are passed and the stock of rice required for tiding over the monsoon months speedily procured.

C

A

From Collr Mlr

1 74

Development Department.

Telegram No. 7978F/41-11 dated 1-5-41
Express

To

Collector,
Mangalore.

pp 72-73 Cy

Your demi-official (No) 1759-41-A3 (dated) 27th April (re:) rice aaa (Please) report definitely whether merchants (are) willing to get shipments at Calicut or Cannanore and if so total quantity required aaa Give full particulars of quantities and destinations of exports from district and justify necessity for embargo aaa Have any supplies been received from other surplus districts? Why are merchants not purchasing from Malabar if stock in Mangalore is so short?

B/

Devment

30/4

Can
1/5/41

P.C.

Telegram issued
WR
1-5-41.

P.C. Delhi
Pr
2/5

75 (11) Dev

1978F/41-12

Telegram No. L dated 1.5.41
Express

To

Controship

Calcutta.

Your telegram (dated) 25th April aaa ~~Grave anxiety~~ anxious in Mangalore aaa Port closes (on) 15th May aaa Please wire whether required quantity since allotted to Mangalore aaa If not wire possibility (of) Mangalore requirements being sent to Calicut or Cannanore before these ports close end of May ~~aa~~ Madras Government ~~would~~ desire ~~press (for)~~ direct allotment to Mangalore if possible.

74/3974 Devment

CMn 1.5.41

P.C.
Copy to Collector of S. Kanara.

P.C. Reply Rec 2.5

f 71 C

D, f 13 C

C

Telegram rdg 1-5-41

A

111

76

Development Department.

(Post copy of telephonic message dated 30th April 1941)

From the Assistant Secretary to the Government of Madras.

To the Joint Secretary, Board of Revenue, Madras.

Economic condition - Rice supplies.

72-73
C.S. In a letter dated 27th April 1941 received from the Collector of South Kanara, he states that in his report to the Board of Revenue he has mooted the question of prohibiting exports of rice from the South Kanara District ~~to outside places~~. Will you please send a copy of that report in advance for reference?

24
30/4 o/c

27/3/41

MR on pt 90-93 ante

IV

78

Development Department.

****

(Post copy of telephonic message dated 30th April 1941).

From the Assistant Secretary to the Government of Madras.

To the Director of Agriculture, Madras.

Economic condition - South Kanara district - Rice shortage - Arrangements for shipments -

---

Paragraph 4 of D.O.No. 7978 F/41-2 Development dated 20-3-1941.

Please say whether the Provincial Marketing Officer has received any request for supplies of rice to South Kanara district and if so what action has been taken in that regard.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
2 - MAY 1941
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

1270

MADRAS
1 MAY 41
P.T.O.

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

Received here at ——— H. ——— M.

12122 F

U TK CALCUTTA 1 STE 32 DEVMENT MADRAS

71 amts

MY TELEGRAM 25 TH APRIL RANGOON REPORT BEGINS

MANGALORE AS SHIPPERS NOT PRESSING & AS PORT CLOSE

VERY SHORTLY DO NOT RECOMMEND BERTHING STEAMER

NTIL AFTER MONSOON ENDS = CONTROSH

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handed in, serial number (in the case of foreign telegrams only), office of origin, date, service instructions (if any), and number of words.

This form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

Lal Chand & Sons, Printers, Calcutta—No. 447 R(B-95)—24-5-40—30,000 Bks.

Development Dept.

D.O.No. 7978F/41-13 dated 3-5-41

My dear Subrahmanyam,

Subject: Economic condition - South Kanara Dt. - Rice - Supplies -

Ref: Para.5 of your D.O.1759-41-A dated 27-4-41

The Controller of Shipping, Calcutta, who was addressed -- vide copy of my telegram No.7978-F/41-12 dated 1-5-41 -- with reference to your D.O. cited above, has wired to say that the shippers in Rangoon are not pressing for allotment to Mangalore and as that port closes very shortly, berthing of a steamer to Mangalore is not recommended until after the monsoon ends. It is unfortunate that the requirements of Mangalore merchants did not find support at the hands of the shippers at Rangoon. It may yet be possible for the ~~Mangalore~~ merchants to get their requirements delivered at Calicut, Cannanore or any other West Coast port which closes later. As there is no time to lose, I am to request you to report urgently as to the port to which the merchants would like their requirements to be sent.

2. As regards the question of prohibiting ~~xxxxxx~~ exports from the district, it is doubtful whether interference with the trade in this manner would achieve any appreciable

result. According to the information with the Government, there were some movements of rice from South Kanara to Malabar particularly in the early part of March and, on the whole, about 747 tons ~~of~~ appear to have been exported from the beginning of March to 19th April 1941. Malabar having since received ample shipments from Burma--more than 45,000 tons from 20-2-41 to 19-4-41--- is unlikely to need any more rice from South Kanara. I am therefore to request you to justify in greater detail the need for prohibiting exports from your district or for getting an undertaking from the merchants not to export. Your letter to the Board of Revenue in which you have mooted this point has not yet reached the Government.

3. Another point which requires elucidation is how the situation in your district is likely to deteriorate to such an extent as to cause anxiety simply because of the failure, for the present, to get a supply of 2,000 tons from Burma. Would it not be possible for the merchants to get this quantity from Malabar or elsewhere, even though they may have to pay a slightly higher price, and tide over the difficulty?

Yours sincerely,

M.V. Subrahmanyam Esq., I.C.S.,
Collector of South Kanara.

AS

CMA
5/5/41

D.O.
No.1753-41-A5.

S.Kanara Collector's Office,
Camp: Karkala, 2nd May 1941.

My dear Menon,

Economic condition - (South Kanara) - Rice - shortage - Further action requested -

Ref:- My D.O. No.1753-41-A5 dated 27.4.41.

As 72-73 above

Ibid

In continuation of my D.O. letter dated 27.4.41, I give below a gist of the correspondence that has since passed between me and the Kanara Chamber of Commerce, Mangalore. In reply to my letter dated 27.4.41 requesting the Chamber to expedite the assurance to the effect that the rice imported from Burma would be used for consumption in this district alone, the Secretary of the Chamber, while not furnishing the categorical undertaking which I had called for, has raised the question of the policy involved in the "Ban" and opined that should this Ban be imposed in all the districts of this Presidency, this district would be in a worse position, because a time may come when it may have to import from Conjeevaram etc. larger quantities of rice than at present. I have informed the Chamber that as the categorical undertaking which I had called for was not given, I am unable to proceed further with attempts at making special arrangements through Government on behalf of the merchants. As regards the 'Ban' referred to by the Secretary, I have told him that the 'Ban' would be thought of naturally only in regard to 'deficit' districts and not in regard to 'surplus' districts.

NC

As regards the profiteering by the merchants by steadily increasing the price of rice, the Chamber simply says that there has been slight increase in the price in sympathy with the increase in Burma and seasonal demand locally and that the fluctuations in the price from day to day are on account of resales by merchants resulting in the addition of brokerage,

sales-tax, coolly charges etc. The Chamber adds that no merchant had hold on this small consignment imported by him and hence no charge of profiteering could be laid on him. It also suggests that the control of the price of rice is not advisable at present as the agriculturists have still large stocks to sell and that the control would not be in their interests. I have informed the Chamber that its explanation is not satisfactory and that there is no reason why the stock already imported at a certain price should rise in price "in sympathy with" any increase in Burma and that it is that which introduces a distinct element of profiteering. I have also said that the control I had in mind applied only to the transactions of merchants and that the matter is being further considered.

3. The Secretary of the Chamber also says that the merchants have succeeded in importing appreciable quantities of rice from the Mysore State, Conjeevaram in the North Canara district subsequent to the failure of their attempts to import rice direct from Burma and that when all these sources of supply are exhausted the Chamber would request me to make arrangements for supply to Mangalore either by merchants or through any other agency which I may set up. I have asked the Chamber for the statistics of the quantity imported from the sources referred to above and of the probable quantity still required for the district to tide over the monsoon months. The Secretary has also been requested to let me know whether he wants his requisition for 2000 tons from Burma, which so far stands, to be formally cancelled.

4. In the above circumstances, I consider that it would be better to get the ear-marked consignment from Burma, referred to in my D.O. letter cited above, through the Co-operative organisation. I am arranging to meet the representation of the local Co-operative institution. For financing the above transaction it would probably be necessary for the Government to step in either directly or through the Co-operative Central Bank. I shall report further on these points after I have

discussed the matter with the local representative, but meanwhile a preliminary talk may be arranged with the Co-operative Central Bank.

5. I have just received, after I had prepared the above report, Government telegram No.3-A-15/25, dated 1.8.1941. In view of the attitude of the merchants, which I have commented on above, I do not consider it worth while asking them about shipments to Calicut or Cannanore. I am, however, asking them to reconsider their attitude about the 'undertaking' in view of my communication to them mentioned in para 4 above, and I am also asking them, therefore, on the points raised in the telegram about shipments to Calicut and Cannanore, and also on the point why they are not purchasing from Mysore. There are no exact particulars available about quantities and destinations of recent exports. When the subordinate officers were instructed, in pursuance of Government Memorandum No. 4765 F/41-19 dated 23.6.41, to make a survey of existing stock in the various taluks they sent rough estimates (which was all that could be made), which showed that for the district as a whole there was a shortage as against requirements by about 8,00,000 muras; and they added in that connection that the comparison of stocks as against requirements was based on the footing that exports from the district would not occur; and they added also that local opinion was also that exports should be prohibited. It was upon these considerations that I proposed the ban on exports. The estimate of anticipated shortage as 8 lakhs of muras is probably too high; at the time of my discussion with the Kanara Chamber of Commerce it was estimated that about 2 lakhs of muras would be needed (see paragraph 5 of my D.O. dated 16.6.41); this is probably too low. Anyway if we get an ear-marked consignment from Burma of 2000 tons to be placed for sale through the Co-operative Society, that will considerably ease the situation; but there will also have to be a ban on exports so that the stock which is otherwise available in the district

may not be depleted. (A ton corresponds to about 13⅓ bags; a bag contains a little less than 2 muras). On the point raised in the telegram about the stock received from surplus districts, I am asking the Kanara Chamber for statistics, as mentioned in paragraph 5 above.

6. I shall send a further report after I get replies from the Kanara Chamber and after I have met the Secretary of the Mangalore Co-operative Stores.

Yours sincerely,

15/7/44.

Sri Rao Bahadur C.P.Karunakara Menon,
Secretary to Government, Development Department,
Stonehouse Hill, the Nilgiris.

Secy. Dept.

Telegram No. 7978 F-II of 8.5.41

To

CONTROLSHIP

Calcutta

—

Request (early) reply to (my) telegram (No) 7978 F/41 (of) 1st (May) (re) rice Mangalore area.

Dement

7/5

MS
8/5/41

8/5/41

PC
Telegram
8/5

G.F. 304—5,286 Bks.—1-2-40.

OFFICE OF THE _____

Dated 3-5- 194 |

11 Hours 4 d Minutes.

TELEPHONIC MESSAGE

From the Jt Secy. Bd of Revenue

To the A.S. to Govt Dept. dept.

Sub Economic Condition -
Rice Supplies

Ref your T.M. dated 30.4.41.

A copy of the Report refrnce. No: 1759/41-A5 dated 11.4.41 of the Collector of S. Kanara referred to in your T.M. has already been sent as an enclosure to this office L. Dis No. S 2522/41 dated 30.4.41 despatched yesterday

3.5.41

Files not put up.

Copy of letter from the Collector of South Kanara, No. Ref. C.1759/41-A5 dated 11th April 1941.

Economic condition - Rice - Supplies - Fortnightly reports - First report submitted.

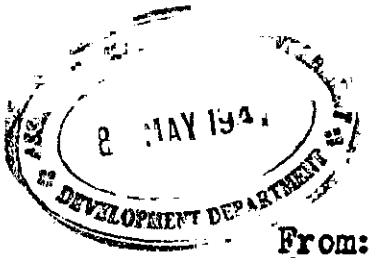
S.1635/41-4 dated 5-4-1941 from the Board of Revenue.

(L) On receipt of the Government Memorandum No. 4765-F/41-19 (Development) dated 29-3-1941 referred to in the Board's Reference cited above, I called for detailed information from the Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars. I also directed them to arrange for meetings of important rice merchants and representatives of Co-operative Stores etc. before submitting their reports and gave them a week's time. I have hitherto received the report from only one Tahsildar. The rest are expected soon.

2. I have had to take up the whole matter already with the Government. I enclose a copy of the report which I sent to Government, on 16-3-1941. That sets out the general position in this district. The shipment of about 10,000 bags referred to in paragraph 5 of the report as having been arranged to be shipped already, arrived here bringing about 1000 tons. The remaining 2000 tons reported as absolutely necessary, have not been arranged for yet. The Government have been taking steps and I have been repeating the request, but no definite arrangements for the shipment have so far been made.

3. It has been suggested by some of the merchants in this district that to prevent the economic condition becoming worse, export of rice from this district to outside places should be prohibited. It has also come to my notice that out of the shipment of 1000 tons of rice which recently arrived at Mangalor and which has been referred to in the previous paragraph, some quantity was sent outside the district. There is at present a high demand for rice outside and naturally it may not be ordinarily possible to prevent the merchant class from sending rice out of the district. With reference to the arrangement for

the shipment of the further 2,000 tons earmarked for Mangalore, referred to above, the idea naturally is that that shipment should be used by the merchants only for sale for consumption in the district and I have asked the Kanara Chamer of Commerce to confirm formally in writing an assurance in that regard; but even so, something more than an assurance of that kind from the Chamber may be necessary to ensure that the consignment does not got out of the district. It is therefore necessary that the Government should interfere in the matter and frame rules prohibiting export of rice from this district until further orders. I request that the Government may be moved to pass orders prohibiting the export of rice or paddy from this district to places outside it without the permission of the Collector.



Office of the Director of Agriculture,
Post Box No. 412, Triplicane, Madras.

Telephonic message by post.

From: The Director of Agriculture, Madras.
To: The Assistant Secretary to Government, Development Department.
Dated: 6th May 1941.

*****

Subject: Economic condition - South Kanara District - Rice shortage - arrangements for shipments -

Ref: Para 4 of D.O. No. 7978 F/41-2 Development dated 20-3-41 and Development Department Telephone Message dated 30-4-1941.

On a reference dated 26-3-41 from the Honorary Secretary of the Kanara Chamber of Commerce, Mangalore, the Provincial Marketting Officer furnished to the Chamber information about the main sources of surplus rice in this Presidency, the varieties available for export from the surplus centres, normal exports, the prices of different types of rice and paddy in some of the important rice markets and a list of merchants dealing in rice in the main centres of production.

The Provincial Marketting Officer has not heard from the Chamber since.

for Director of Agriculture,
Madras.

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1075. 8. 40 1 ms

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INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

No. 12785

Received here at _____ H. _____ M.

O TH CALCUTTA 9 STE 55 DEPARTMENT MADRAS

YOUR TELEGRAM EIGHTH SEE MY TELEGRAM FIRST FULLSTOP CONFERENCE INFORM ME POSITION IS THEY HAVE NOT FIFTY PER CENT OF TONNAGE REQUIRED FOR RICE OFFERING AND MUST MAKE ALLOCATIONS PROPORTIONATELY TO ALL PORTS DEMAND THEREFORE IT IS NOT PRACTICABLE FAVOUR ONE PORT WHEN

Office of origin, date, service instructions (if any), and number of words.

This form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

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98

10 MAY 41

No.

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135-41

D.O.
Rel.AS-1755-41.

S.Kanara Collector's Office,
Mangalore, 11th May 1941.

My dear Sivasankar,

Economic condition - South Kanara Dt. - Rice - supplies -

Ref:- My D.O. No. 1755-41-A5 dated 8-5-41.
Your D.O.No. 1378-F/41-1a dated 3rd May 1941.

I have met the representatives of the Kanara Chamber and I have also met the representatives of the Co-operative Central Stores, Mangalore, and the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The Chamber had also sent some replies to my letters and they gave me two copy of a Review which they had prepared on "Rice Position in Mangalore & South Kanara - A Review - May 1941". I enclose a copy of it.

2. The Kanara Chamber had in one of its letters formally given me an assurance that the merchants would use imported rice only for consumption in this district. At the meeting which I had with the representatives they also gave me an assurance that the merchants would normally operate only on a working margin of 2 to 3 annas per bag - which I considered reasonable. In view of these I do not consider it necessary now to have a formal ban on exports or to step in to control prices.

3. In paragraph 5 of my report dated 16.5.41 I indicated that there would have to be two shipments of 50,000 bags each from Burma before the date of the closing of the Port. In paragraph 6 of that report I indicated that a shipment of 2,000 tons should be got as a first instalment and that if the requirements would be duly indicated. The significance of the repeated attempts to get this quantity which ultimately failed was that, apart from its quantitative effect it had another effect also in undermining faith in the ability to secure requisite supplies. It was with reference to all these aspects that I indicated that the failure of this consignment would lead to a deterioration of the situation.

4. The Kanara Chamber has stated that the merchants imported about 1,500 bags by rail from Calicut, Cannanore and Cochin and about 2,000 bags from Conjeevaram and that large quantities have arrived from over the Ghauts by lorries from Mysore - to a total of about 12,000 bags. In paragraphs 11, 13 and 16 under the head 'Conclusions' in the "Review" the Kanara Chamber has indicated the reasons why the merchants cannot import from Malabar and why they do not want not any ear-marked consignments from Burma to the West Coast Ports.

w.r.t. para 3 p 85 ante

960 tons

p 108 infra No.

5. Their general survey of the situation, it may be noticed, is that the stock so far in the district now, including the recent imports, will suffice for rural consumption right up to the end of the monsoon period and will also suffice to meet the demands of urban consumption (in the note they have said the end of July but at the discussion they said it would probably last till the end of the monsoon period), and also the needs of the Kasaragod taluk up to the end of June; and the only difficulty will be about the Kasaragod taluk for the months of July to September. The demand for this area is estimated as anything up to 1,000 muras a day and for the 3 months it will be, therefore, 90,000 muras.

conclusions 1 to 3 on p 107 infra

para 5 p 105

para 6 p 105

360 tons

6. We tested these figures at the discussion with reference to the shortage for the district as estimated at the beginning (which I have referred to in my previous report as 2 lakhs of muras). Since then we have had a Burma shipment of about 1,000 tons (25,000 muras) and the imports recently received which I have referred to above - about 34,000 muras. The deficit would thus be about 1,50,000 of muras against which we are now postulating about 1 lakh of muras in respect of the Kasaragod taluk. I consider, therefore, that the estimate may be taken as fairly correct and that most probably the estimate made by the Revenue subordinates (which I have referred to in my previous D.O. as 8 lakhs) was too high.

para 3, p 82 & E'n p 3 ante

para 5, p 86 ante

7. The merchants have suggested, it may be noticed, that the Government themselves may make arrangements for

(1)

conclusions 5 & 6, p 107 infra

D

1,000 tons of Burma rice to be got and stored. I have mentioned in my previous D.O. that I was thinking of this with reference to a quantity of 2,000 tons through the agency of the local Co-operative Stores. In view of the present position and the attitude of the merchants referred to by me above, there is no immediate necessity for such a scheme, but as the merchants themselves have indicated the necessity for such a scheme and as it is obvious that by the beginning of July there will be shortage for the district as a whole and as there might be difficulty for the merchants themselves to get stocks then and as it would be desirable to counteract any tendency which might then be noticed on the part of the merchants to profiteer, it would be desirable to have a scheme ready which could be put into effect as soon as the circumstances require it. The difficulty of the local Co-operative Stores is that the Central Bank can finance only up to 70% of the value of the stock and somebody else will have to finance the remaining 30%. This latter will be an appreciable sum. And apart from that there is also the risk of the stock having to be sold at a loss. The Mangalore Co-operative Stores with its limited resources can neither finance this 30% nor face this risk. The position is, therefore, that they will be able to act only purely as selling agents. This would mean that the Government themselves will have to finance the whole scheme. The scheme is necessary, as I have indicated above, not merely to meet the shortage in stock but also to serve as a steadying and controlling factor. That would definitely mean that there is the risk of the Government having the stock tied up for sometime or of having to dislodge it at some loss. But that is a risk that must be faced and that is a loss - if there should be a loss - which should be borne in the general public interest. In that contingency it may also be a matter for consideration that a good portion of the stock may be utilised for supply to the Amindivis in the exchange

para 4, pp 85-86 ante

E

conclusions 5 & 6, p 107 ante

F

G

scheme. On the average we have to supply about 15,000 muras to the Amindivis in an year. I, therefore, recommend that a scheme for supply by the Government themselves of about 1,000 tons at least should be sanctioned and kept ready. The supply under that scheme will have to be arranged by the Provincial Marketing Officer as soon as the eventuality occurs - which will be intimated from here. He will arrange from whichever area most suitable then, Burma or surplus districts of this Province. And concessional rates of railway freight may also have to be arranged for. The rest of the scheme which has been drawn up in consultation with the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies would be as follows:- If the consignment is from Burma the shipment will be to Cochin or any other suitable West Coast Port. The Divisional Officer who has jurisdiction over the place of destination will have to arrange for its landing and transport to Mangalore by rail. If the consignment is from surplus areas of this Province it will be railed direct to Mangalore. On arrival of the consignment at Mangalore in either case the Tansildar, Mangalore, should take delivery of the stock and keep it in his custody. The cost price of each bag may be fixed by the Tansildar with reference to the actual cost of the rice, the transport charge and other incidental charges. The stock may then be distributed to the several Co-operative Stores in the district for sale to the members and non-members. Co-operative Store requiring rice from the proposed Government depot at Mangalore will send an indent of its requirements with the full cost price to the Tansildar who will release the stock on receipt of the full cost price. The selling price in each Store will be fixed by the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies in consultation with the Directors and with the approval of the Collector. The Government will have to arrange with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to give general permission to all co-operative stores in the district to

sell Burma rice supplied by Government to members and non-members at the same price. There are Co-operative Stores at the following places in the district:-

1. Mangalore
2. Puttur.
3. Kasaragod.
4. Karkal.
5. Udipi.
6. Coondapur.
7. Mulki.
8. Perdur.
9. Perla.
10. Subramania.

I gather that there will be no difficulty about go-downs. The Registrar will arrange about them. Probably we will require a clerk to keep accounts and a watchman for the go-downs. My original idea was to have all the distribution to other Co-operative Stores done by the Mangalore Co-operative Stores, but on the whole, I think the arrangement suggested by the Deputy Registrar, which I have embodied above, will be better.

8. I put the question to the members of the Kerala Chamber why they should themselves not import the 1,000 tons which they have referred to as being necessary for Government to arrange for, so that they may get it by the beginning of July, and what would be the arrangement they propose regarding the deficit that will still exist after the import of this Burma stock. On the latter point they stated that they expect further supplies to be coming in from Conjeevaram etc. and on the former point they said the reason was indicated in paragraph 11 of the review under conclusions. But they have promised to send me another "appreciation" by the end of this month in connection with which they will definitely state whether they require the arrangement for the supply of the stock to themselves from Burma or from surplus areas in this Province. Thus though no immediate action is required at the moment, the Government will have to take steps to formulate a scheme as outlined by me, which will have to be brought into effect if the merchants themselves are not able to arrange or are not agreeable to the Government arranging through them for the required stock to tide over the period from July to October; if the merchants want arrangements to be made for themselves

105

the Government will have to give them the necessary facilities. I will write again about this after I hear from them about the beginning of next month. 1A

Yours sincerely,

11/5/74

T. Sivasankar Esquire, I.C.S.,
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Development Department, Stonehouse Hill,
The Nilgiris.

Rice Position in Mangalore & South Kanara.

A Review - May 1941.

South Kanara is a rice producing district and a surplus district as far as rice produce is concerned. (About 3 to 4 lakhs of muras of surplus rice used to be exported every year until 1926 to Goa and Malabar) Since then exports have fallen and produce is same as before but internal consumption has increased since last fifteen years. Import of paddy from Ghats was and is still an important feature of trade all along.

The produce in 1936 to 1938 was less than the average and in 1939- 1940 it was more than the average and the past season i.e. the current is considered as an average season.

At the end of 1940 season (September) the district found vast quantities of surplus produce on hand, owing to bumper crops in 1939 and 1940 and due to the peculiar situation which arose out of the war and short stocks of Burma rice held in Madras, it was found possible to export very large quantities of rice and paddy to Malabar and Cochin; nearly 1½ lakhs to lakhs bags of rice and paddy were exported. These exports included some of the produce of the new crop, that began to arrive in the months of October and November of 194 . This has benefitted the district to a very large extent as otherwise the prices would have slackened to the detriment of the agriculturists.

This export has been set off to some extent by considerable imports of paddy and rice from Ghats, specially in April.

In the opinion of the merchants and from information collected through upcountry dealers, it is believed that the stocks held in upcountry villages, though not to the same extent as in 1939 and 1940, are enough for the local consumption and usual supply to urban area during monsoon; (it is estimated that the stocks held are about 1/3 of the stocks in 1939 and 1940).

The main centres or villages which hold stocks and release them between July to September are Moner, Moodabidri, Karkal and Bantwal. All these stocks arrive in Mangalore and for

used for local consumption.

The centres - Kasaragod, Hosdrug etc., south of Mangalore, on the Coast line, wholly depend on exports from Mangalore for 8 months in a year and the rice consumed by them is usually Coongapur mill rice or Burma rice (boiled). For this purpose the merchants usually stock and hold on hand about 30 to 50 thousand bags of both varieties of rice for use between July to September before the end of the sea communication in the month of May.

This year the import of Burma rice is almost nil and the stock of Coongapur rice is also limited. The present stock of Coongapur rice is estimated at about 10 to 12 thousand mudes and some more consignments are expected during this and the next week before the close of machine communication.

Conclusion: 1. The stock in villages is quite sufficient for local consumption in rural areas until the arrival of new crop i.e. until end of October.

The stocks of local district produce held in Mangalore and by the Zamindars, will be sufficient for Mangalore City consumption until the end of July.

3. There may be felt some necessity of rice for use of Kasaragod and Hosdrug etc. for the months of July to September. This may be estimated at 20 to 25 thousand bags.

4. The above conclusions are arrived at on the basis that no exports are made beyond the limits of the district.

5. That the Government themselves or through some proper agency may import and stock, preferably in Mangalore, 1,000 tons or 14,000 bags of Burma boiled rice for use and release in Mangalore and Kasaragod Taluks, in the months of July to October.

6. That this would also have a steadying influence on the prices prevailing and also check any rise in prices after the end of fair season, January-May, as is usually the case.

7. That it is the opinion of the merchants here, that

there will be no rise in prices of rice until the end of July, owing to the following factors:-

(a) There is a decrease in price of rice in Burma.

(b) It has been found possible and profitable to import some quantities of rice from Conjeevaram (already roughly 2,500 bags have been imported and further consignments are expected shortly from Tanjore and Adoni), and it may also be possible to some extent to import from Tadapalligaddam, as the prices prevailing there are also favourable.

8. If the imports, no found possible, continue until end of July or the prices ruling in east coast districts, remain favourable, the whole difficulty of tiding over the short of rice during the remaining part of the year, will be solved.

9. Only as a precautionary measure and to avoid all contingencies, that may arise in future, the merchants think it advisable to import and stock rice as expressed in conclusion 5 above.

10. The merchants are anxious and will always be prepared to co-operate with the authorities in all matters calculated to keep down the prices of rice to a fair level and to restrict exports of this commodity outside the district.

11. The financing and the risk involved in stock for a long time, do not induce individual merchants to place any orders with Rangoon at present, with all the risk and cost involved in importing at any West Coast port and getting the same down here. The prices prevailing in Malabar (Calicut and Cannanore) are at par with Mangalore rates and consequently no import are possible even if surplus stocks are available at that end.

They were a bit higher than Mangalore ch.

12. The position was quite different in March and early in April, when Rangoon prices were moderate and imports directly to Mangalore were possible.

13. Under the circumstances, the merchants may not find it possible to place any orders for appreciable quantities, directly with Rangoon even if Government may try for facilities to obtain space on vessels for landing at any West coast ports.

(True copy)

11/7/44

Collector.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO
17 MAY 1941
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Sectt. 11-51—8,000—10-10-39.

Public Press Department. 1916-1 134765
1715 17/4.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. *Name of Paper*— The Hindu
2. *Published at*— Madras
3. *Dated*— 15/5/41

Weekly report of Dept. V.P.E.M., 16/5/41

RICE STOCKS IN SOUTH KANARA

Traders' Deputation Meets Collector

STEPS TO PREVENT PROFITEERING

MANGALORE, May 13.

Messrs Manel Annappa Nayak, President; Konchady Keshava Shenoy, Vice-President; M. Raghavendra Pai, Secretary; and Sujeer Narayana Nayak, member of the Kanara Chamber of Commerce interviewed the Collector of South Kanara and discussed with him questions relating to stocks and the recent rise in prices of rice.

On behalf of the rice merchants, represented by the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber voluntarily agreed to restrict the sale of imported rice within the limits of the District.

It was also agreed that it was in the interests of all concerned that a fair level of prices of rice should be maintained, and that no room should be given for complaints of excessive profits.

It was suggested that the authorities should assist, by importing 1,000 tons of Burma rice, to tide over any crisis that might arise hereafter on account of the limited stocks of rice on hand with the merchants for supply for the months of August and September.

On behalf of the merchants, the Chamber promised to keep the Collector informed from time to time of the situation regarding stocks of rice in Mangalore and the fluctuation in prices.

The Chamber assured the public that the merchants and authorities were taking all necessary steps to provide sufficient quantities of rice for consumption in the District at prices comparing favourably with the neighbouring districts.—F.O.C.

See para 2, p 100 ante
9b-5
D' pp 101-102 ante 5 conclu
5 on p 107 ante.
4 'c' on p 106 ante

Sr No 41
C No 7978 Mem
MD
U

Development Department.

D.O.No.7978-F/41 dated 19.5.41

My dear Subrahmanyam,

Economic condition - South Kanara District - Rice - Supplies.

Correspondence ending with your D.O. No. Ref. A.5-1759-41 dated 11-5-1941.

The Government observe that you do not consider it necessary that exports from the district should be prohibited or prices controlled, that the merchants do not at present recuire an earmarked consignment from Burma and that the stocks in the district are sufficient to meet rural consumption right up to the end of the monsoon and urban consumption up to the end of July in any event, (excepting the Kasargod taluk) The only question that remains is the suggestion that the Govt. should themselves make arrangements to get rice from Burma or from surplus districts of the Province and store it. The Government note that you are of the view that there is no immediate necessity for such a scheme but that it would be desirable to have a scheme ready to be put into effect as soon as the circumstances require. A scheme such as that you have outlined, even if necessary, cannot be introduced in a single district as the other districts similarly situated will have to be similarly treated. The present indication however is that

there is no urgent demand for such a scheme in the South Kanara district and that there are already movements of rice from Malabar, Conjeevaram Mysore etc. More than 68,000 tons of rice have been imported into Malabar ports since the middle of February. If ~~a~~ scarcity is felt in the South Kanara District, rice from Malabar and other districts are bound to flow into the district. The P.M.O. has already supplied the Kanara Chamber of Commerce with information about the main sources of surplus rice in the Presidency, the varieties available for export, the prices of different varieties of rice and paddy in the important markets and a list of merchants dealing in rice in the main centres of production. It is open to the merchants to obtain the necessary supplies if and when required with the assistance of the P.M.O., if necessary.

2. The Government await the further promised to send report which you have ~~proposed~~ at the beginning of the next month. Meanwhile I am to request you to keep a close watch on the state of supplies in the district and of exports from the district particularly to places outside the Province, like Bombay where it was reported ~~that~~ prices went up last month on account of scarcity of rice.

17/5

17/5/41

Can

17/5/41

See Secretary's note, on p17 ante

'N' p85 & 'C' p105 ante

and para 4, p101 C

file & dist. p

Secretary's note

mentioned on p21

p56 ante.

9 to 5

p22 n.d.

'A' p105 ante

Despatched to Bombay Govt with ref (attached) 18/5/41

file not found.

It was also alleged that notwithstanding the scarcity, rice was being exported to the Middle East for private consumption.

RD 7.6.41

Despatched to Govts of S. & Mad vide 1950

To

M.V. Subrahmanyam Esq I.C.S.
Collr of S. Kanara

Copy to S.Y. Krishnaswamy Esq I.C.S.
Secy. to Govt. of Madras (with copy)

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

Subject: Economic condition - South Kanara district - Rice - Shortage - Arrangements for shipments.

(C.No. 7978-F/41).

From the Collector of South Kanara, C.No. 1759/41-A5 dated 16-3-1941.

The Collector of South Kanara reports that due to exports of rice from this district to Malabar, and the difficulty of getting supplies from Burma, a serious shortage and rise in the prices of rice in the district are bound to occur during the monsoon months. It is said that over 6,000 tons (2 lakhs of muras) have been exported to Calicut, Trichur and Cochin this year while in a normal year the exports to Malabar are practically nil. Imports into the district from Bombay, Mysore and Coorg which normally amounted to 7,500 tons (2,40,000 muras) were practically nothing this year. And as regards imports from Burma, while normally over 4,500 tons (1½ lakhs muras) used to come in February, March and April, there have been no shipments so far and against orders placed for over 2,100 tons (30,000 bags) only about 700 tons (10,000 bags) are expected by a ship sailing from Burma on 16-3-1941. The Collector therefore requests the Government to arrange at once for shipping space to be provided for Mangalore for 2,000 tons of boiled rice by a steamer leaving the Burma ports by the end of this month and for further facilities before the Mangalore ports is closed on account of the monsoon on the 15th May 1941. He suggests that shipping space may be provided to whatever shippers the rationing authorities consider suitable and appropriate and that he may be informed by wire about the availability of the shipping space and the names of shippers so that he may give intimation to the Kerala/Kanara Chamber of

Commerce for and merchants to wire their orders. p 8, p 4 Cr.

2. It may be mentioned at the outset that the question of getting all the shipments of Burma rice to Madras instead of to the West coast is under consideration and the file is in circulation. If this proposal materialises, the necessity of getting all the supplies before the monsoon sets in, which the Collector stresses, will be obviated. However, some arrangements may be made at once to alleviate the present situation. From the information received from the Indian Shipping Adviser in the Malabar file there is no ship en route from Burma Malabar scheduled to discharge any shipments of rice at Mangalore. The Indian Shipping Adviser may be requested to arrange for the shipments required by the Collector. Draft telegram submitted. Draft D.O. to the Collector is also submitted for consideration.

× CN: 5758 F/41 △ Portfolio No 42 in 1943 para 9, p 4 CN: 6765 F/41 not put up.

24/3/41 20/3/41

[Telegram to the Indian Shipping Adviser No. 7577 F/41-1 & 20-3-41] p 11 Cr

[D. O. to the Collector of South Kanara No. 7578 F/41-2 & 20-3-41]. p 13-15 Cr

Telegram from the Indian Shipping Adviser No 1236/41 & 21 3 41 p 17 Cr

Please see p. 17 Cr. The further report of the Indian Shipping Adviser and the report of the Shipping Controller may be awaited.

27/3/41 22/3/41

Telegram from Controller of Shipping, Calcutta & 22 3 41 p 19 Cr

[Telegm to Collr of S. Kanara. & 23 3 41] p 20 Cr

(Cov. 8526) From the Indian Shipping
p 21 Advisor express letter No. S.A. (B)
1/10 of 22-3-41.

— · —

A.S.

Subs. for perusal. The information
in the letter may be communicated
to the Coll.r of South Kanara.
draft memo. is subd.

24/3/41 24/3 24/3/41

p 23-24 C { Memo to the Coll.r of South Kanara
p 25-26 C No. 7878 F/41-39 24-3-41 }
(8701) From the Coll.r of S. Kanara,
D.O.No. AS-1759-41. of 23.3.41

The Collector's further report
promised in para 1, p 25-26 C
may be awaited.

25/3/41 25/3

p 27 C (Cov. 8807) From the collector of
South Kanara, telegram of 26-3-41

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A.S.

Please see the
telegram from the collector of

South Canara at p. 21 of. In his letter at pp 1-5 of. he has stated that no shipments had arrived this year from Burma. But he now says that the 1000 tons reported ~~to be~~ by the Controller of Shipping on 22/3/41 to be en route to Mangalore has been already taken into account by him. Perhaps ~~this shipment is identical with~~ the 10000 bags (800 tons) which he reported were being shipped by a ship which was due to sail on 16-3-41. ~~Both the Indian Shipping Adviser~~ and the Controller of Shipping have reported that further shipments are on the point of leaving for Mangalore but that the quantity being shipped is not known. Submitted that the Indian Shipping Adviser may be requested to ascertain whether the quantity being shipped amounts to 2000 tons and if it ~~does not~~ falls

~~Draft telegram is submitted.~~

Next to arrange for shipping for shipments at once to make up the balance

Draft telegram is sent.

24/3/41

26/3

26/3

26/3/41

p 29 ✓ [Telegram to Shipping Controller & Indian Shipping Assocn, No 7978F/41-42, 26.3.41.

p 31 ✓ Telegram from Indian Shipping Assocn, No 1135/27 ✓ 27.3.41

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Page 31 is for perusal. Reply from Shipping Controller, Calcutta may be awaited.

29/3

29/3.41

A.S.

Please see the extract at p. 33 ✓ from a report received in the Public (general) dept and A 2 is orders in the margin. The detailed report of the Collector of South Canara on the subject is at pp 1-5 ✓ and a copy of the note published by them for the information of the public and relating to the

instructions issued by him to his subordinates is at pp 7-8 of. He has already been told that it is not the policy of the Govt. to interfere with the primary producers and he has since reported that he has pointed this out to his subordinates. para 5, pp 14-15 of; para 2, pp 25-26

The matter on pp 7-8 of is the note issued to the public. It makes ref to the instructions issued to R.D.Os etc and the terms of those instructions should Colr. be asked to send a copy of the instructions actually issued

JW 31/3

S

Loe may get a copy of the original instrns and also copy of the revised instrns. issued by the Colls. to his subordinates. He was corrected by us in so far as his instrns. related to primary producers but his repl (paragraph 2) at pp 25-26 of shows that he has still not understood the Govt's policy in this matter. para 2, pp 14-15 of

Draft D.O. to Colr. below may perhaps issue

CAM 14/4

1.4

C.1.4.41
R.3.4.41
2-3 Apr

JWS CAM 14/4

AL

p 3 S 1 [D.O. to the Collector of South Kanara, No. 7978 F/41-6 & 1-4-41]
[C.N.o 5262] from the Collector of
pp 41-62 Cf. South Kanara D. O. Ref. No. 1755-41
& 25-3-41.

Please see the South Kanara Collector's reply at pp. 61-62 Cf. to the D.O. at pp. 1315 Cf. He requests the
A' p 62 Cf. grant to forces for the shipment of 2000 tons asked for by him. The Controller of Shipping
p 35 Cf. has reported that the conference lines are endeavouring to meet Mangalore requirements and
the Collector has been
p. 37 Cf. informed accordingly. Subs. that the controller may be
asked on 15-4-41 whether the
7/4 requirements have been met
CM 4-4-41 and if no further report is received from him in the meantime.

It is reported that
para 2, p 63 Cf. the Kanara Chamber of Commerce is not in favour

of India's proposal to economise shipping by allowing all shipments of rice from Burma to Madras only and then carrying the rice by rail to the areas ordinarily served by the West coast ports. ~~the~~ The Malabar merchants have agreed to the proposal subject to the following 2 conditions:-

Para 2 in copy of Indian letter at (2)

File C.N. 5758 Plan not put up

1) No imports should be allowed at Cochin port which is open throughout the year as otherwise merchants who get their supplies from Madras by rail will be at a disadvantage.

Ibid

2) Sufficient notice should be given to them of the introduction of the scheme to enable them to make ~~this~~ arrangements like the appointing of agents, hiring of godowns etc. at Madras.

Ibid

There seems no reason why Mangalore

merchants should not fall in line with malabar merchants. The slight* increase in price referred to by the S. Kanara Chamber, is inevitable and should not be a hardship compared to that which might be caused by shortage of rice.

*Re one per bag or 8¾ annas per maund

para 2, p 43 ct.

Quite so CAM 11/11/41

As regards the query whether Mangalore can get its supplies from shipments arriving at Cochin or Calicut by sailing vessels or country craft the Kanara Chamber says that importers at in Malabar may be unwilling to part with their limited stocks except at higher prices. The possibility of selling supplies from Malabar ports by sailing vessels in case of emergency is not, however ruled out.

para 3, p 14 ct.

para 3, p 43 ct.

7/11/41 CAM

WM 3.4.42 RG 3/4/42

p 67 ct.

(C.N. 5540) from the Collector of South Kanara telegram dated 5-4-42 please see the South Kanara Collector's telegram at

P-3
1.a

p. 47 cf. The latest information regarding shipment of rice from Bassein to Mangalore ~~was~~ that communicated to the collector in the Memo at p. 47 cf. The collector stated* that his request for 2000 tons was exclusive of this shipment. This was explained to the Controller of Shipping in the telegram at p. 25 cf who states in his reply ~~at~~ 29341 that the Conference Lines were endeavouring to meet Mangalore requirements. Nothing further has been heard from him on this subject. ~~Send that he may be asked about the latest position with reference to the collector's telegram.~~ Draft telegram is submd. p 47 cf

* further details about this shipment were communicated to the collr in his telegram dt 10.4.41 p 27 ante & p 41 ante.

p 35 cf.

74/6/4 CAM / 7/4/41 JW

WA
S. Cecil
9/4
54/41

[Telegram to Controller of Shipping Calcutta No 79787/41-7 dt 7.4.41.) p 57 cf

p 53 C (CW 10014) from the Collr of S. Kanara re rice & wheat

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The Collr's letter at p. 53 C is for perusal. The reply of the Controller of Shipping to our telgm at p 57 C is awaited. It may be awaited.

8/4/41.

7/4/41

(CW. No. 10261) from the collector of South Kanara D.O. No. A.S. 17 SS/41 of 7-4-41.

pp 55-57 C

A.S.

Please see the South Kanara Collector's reply at pp. 55-55 C to the D.O. at p 39 C. Draft reply is submitted.

WS S.C.el.

Please see the Mrs telgm since read at p 61 C. It is not clear whether the Scindia steamer referred to therein is the same as that which was reported to have left Rangoon on 30.3.41 with shipments for Cochin & Cannanore. The "Controlships" reply to the telgm at p 51 C is awaited. It however the Manipalse merchants seem the

p 57 C ni DF

Since received & added to the file 7/4/41

p 61 C

12

S No 7K
CN° 7978
W/ 7.98
Forsecy H
W&S

impatient a further telgm is subd

27
5/41

Please see Controllers telgm at p 63 ante. A revised draft telgm is subd.

Issue telegram

27
11/4/41

11/4
S. (after issue of telegram)
CM
Issue

Issue D.O. at-65

CM
Issue

S (after issue of telegram)

S No 16
C° 7978 F/41
W&S

[Telegram to the Controller of Shipping, Calcutta, 7978 F/41-S dt 11-4-41]

[D.O. to the Collector of Customs (Landward) No 7978 F/41 of 11-4-41
A-S.

A draft telegram to the controller of Shipping is subd.

WS
12/4/41
24
12/4/41

[Telegram to the controller of Shipping, Calcutta, No 7978 F/41-S of 23-4-41]

(Cr.No.1161(4) From the Controller of Shipping, Calcutta, telegram d. 25th [illegible]

p.71 cf.

The reply of the Controller of Shipping, Calcutta, at p.71 cf. to the telegrams at pp. 65 and 68 cf. is submitted for perusal. The result of the further telegraphic enquiries that he reports are being made at Rangoon may be awaited till 5-5-41. ~~In the meantime the information in the Copy of the telegram may be Communicated to the collector of South Kanara Draft Reply is sent.~~

p.11 cf.

28/4

26.6.41.

26/4/41

Please see the extract of the letter from the Collector of South Kanara at pp. 72-73 c.f. He states that the present situation will be relieved only if the quantity of rice required for tiding over the monsoon months is speedily procured and orders prohibiting exports from the district are passed. As regards the latter the Provincial Government have no powers at present to prohibit inter-provincial exports under the Defence of India Rules and it is doubtful

cf. A, p.73 cf.

24.5

Fo. 167 Serial (A) 23-1-40 p1.

S.No (22)
CM.°7576Fasli
Forests (Res.
special CM.-73

If inter-district exports could be prohibited. The Collector has not stated definitely the places to which exports from the district are going and the prices at which they are sold. It is a fact that some quantities have gone to Malabar District (about 747 tons from beginning of March 1941 to 19-4-1941, the exports being largest at the beginning of March). The latter district has however now received ample supplies of Burma rice (about 45,000 tons from 20-2-41). Further large movements from South Kanara are therefore unlikely. It is not known whether the adjoining areas in Bombay are drawing away stocks. As regards the question of getting Burma rice to Mangalore the Controller of Shipping has not yet complied with the Government's request for 2,000 tons to Mangalore. As suggested by the Collector the question of getting the supplies for Mangalore at Calicut or Cannanore and then transporting by rail to Mangalore may be considered.

The Collector was told that if the merchants were willing to get their supplies from other surplus sources in the Province, the P.M.O., Madras would be asked to put them in touch with such supplies. The Collector reported that the Committee of the Kanara Chamber of Commerce would communicate with the P.M.O. on the point. Nothing further has been heard.

Four drafts are subs Drafts III + IV may issue before sending file to Govt

24 30/4/41

74 / 30/4 (after issue of Drafts III + IV) * Issued

Issue draft telegrams and inform Coll
A || of what has been done. Of the situation in
S.K. is so grave as Coll. represents, is
it that S.K. merchants do not purchase
in Cannanore or Calicut? After all, S.K.
wanted only 2000 tons, but Malabar ports
have been receiving regular supplies (over
45,000 tons already). I have added to the
draft telegram.

Coll
1.5.44

Add to file
Telegram dated 30.4.44
from Controller
Coll
1.5.44

[Telegram to the Collector of
South Canara, No 1528 F.4(1)
dated 1-5-44]

Telegram to the Controller of
Shipping, Calcutta, No 1528 F.4(1)
dated 1-5-44]

[T.M. to the Board of Trade
[T.M. to the D.A. of South]
Canara; From the Controller,
Shipping, Calcutta, telegram
No. dated 1-5-44.

A.S.

Please see the telegram
at p. 80 C/f from the Controller of
Shipping, Calcutta. His reply
to the telegram at p 75 C/f.

may be awaited.

With reference to 'A' on p 15 above a draft D.O. to the Collector of South Kanara is subm

24/5/41

[Issued as D.C. No 7978 F/41-13 d. 3.5.41 to the Coll., S. Kanara Dist] 1. 82-23 cf

Submitted to Secretary for perusal.

(Noted) Coll's reply may be sent to Mrs. He is now not particular about getting 2000 tons of rice from Burma. Put that up.

[D.O. No 1759-41-15 d. 2.5.41 from the Collr South Kanara Dist] pp 84-87 cf

The D.O. from the Collector of South Kanara at pp 84-87 cf. is submitted for perusal. For the reasons stated by him, in paragraph 3 of his D.O., he is now not particular about the shipment of 2000 tons of rice from Burma to Mangalore Port. p 85 cf

He would however like to have the Govt. of India obtained Through their Govt. Coop. organisation with a view to regulate the prices. His further report on the need for this and on the statistics of imports of rice from surplus districts may be awaited. para 4, p 85-cf

B at p 86 cf

C at p 83 cf

D at p 87 cf

, It has been pointed out to the

para 2, pp 82-83 C.F. Collector that it may not be possible under the
rules to impose an embargo on the export of
rice from the district. His reply to the D.O. at
pp 82-83 C.F. may be awaited. In view

8 N 98
Cm 7978 Hall

7/5/41

from the attitude of the Kanara Chamber of
Commerce, as they seem to be pretty clear
that there is no such urgent demand for rice as
was represented; or there is no reason why they
should be taking it easy as they have been.
It looks as if the Merchants are trying to
obtain imports of rice, for exporting out of the
district and make it a business.

~~The Collr. agrees to "ban~~" The
Collr. further reply may be awaited

CM
8/5/41

[Telegram to the controller of
p 85 C.F. Shipping, Calcutta No 7978 P/41-11
dt 8-5-41.]

pp 80-83 C.F. T.M. from the Board of Revenue
dt 3-5-1941.

p 84 C.F. T.M. from the ~~D.A.~~ dt ~~8~~-5-41.

pp 86-87 C.F. (Cr.No 1278 P) from the Controller of
Shipping, Calcutta, Rc. dt 5-5-41

A.S.

Please see the copy of

131
(-8

the South Kanara collector's letter at to the Board of Revenue at pp. 82-83 of. requesting the Board to move the govt. to issue orders prohibiting the exports of paddy and rice from his district. The collector has been asked in the D.O. at pp. 82-83 of to justify the need for prohibiting exports and this reply may be awaited. In its fortnightly review the Board was of the view that the drastic step of prohibition of exports & movement was not called for on the work-sheet showing the trends as a single unit for each district.

'A' p 83 of.

'B' p 83 of.

We cannot prohibit exports now can TPSM

2. The reply of the D.A at p. 84 of to the T.P. at p. 78 of is submitted for perusal. In this connection please see para 3 of the collector's letter at p. 85 of. The statistics of imports etc called for by him from the Kanara chamber of Commerce may be awaited.

This not imp

This precaution has been raised in another file and the govt and the Govt. of Bombay are being addressed CSH TPSM

3. The reply of the Controller of Shipping at pp. 86-88 of to the telegram at p. 75 of is subs. for perusal. As the collector is not very particular

* paras 3 & 6, p 85 of.
+ D. p 86 of

CNO 14781/41
~~Secy~~ to
U. Sec

about getting the shipment of 2,000 tons of rice from Burma. no action appears necessary. The Controller has not specifically answered the point whether arrangements could be made to send the Mangalore indent to Calicut or Cannanore. But the Coll. has stated that he does not consider it worthwhile to ask the merchants whether they are prepared to get their supplies at Calicut or Cannanore.

Secy's remarks in margin at 'K' on p 85-C

Coll
1/5/41

pp 96-98 C

para 5, p 86 C

The further report of the Coll. referred to in para 6, p 87 C and his reply to the D.O. at pp 82-83 C may be awaited.

Note. till 15.5.41

2/5/41

7/5/41 Coll 1/5/41

(CNo 13055) From the collector of South Canara D.O. Ref. A 5-1751 dt. 11-5-41.

pp 100-101 C

A.S.

The reply of the collector of South Canara at pp. 100-101 C to the D.O. at

pp. 82-83 c.f. is submitted for perusal. His conclusions

Prohibition of exports from the district. (Para 2, pp. 82-83 and para 2, p. 100 c.f.) The Collector was asked to justify in detail his proposal that the exports should be prohibited. The Board of Revenue did not support the suggestion. The Collector now reports that a formal ban on exports or control of prices is not necessary as the Kanara Chamber of Commerce and merchants have given him an assurance that imported rice would be used only for consumption in the district and that the rice will be sold at a working margin of 2 to 3 annas per bag. No further action is necessary.

Delivery of Mangalore requirements of Burma rice at Calicut or Cannanore. (Para 1, p.82 c.f. and paras 3-4, pp. 100-101 c.f. and para 8, p. 104 c.f.). As the Mangalore port closes on 15-5-41 and as the Controller of Shipping has not been able to arrange a shipment to Mangalore, the Collector was asked to report whether the merchants are willing to get their requirements delivered at Calicut or Cannanore or any other west coast port before they close and if so the total quantity required. The Collector reports that the merchants do not want any ear-marked imports from Burma for the reasons explained in paras 11-13 on p. 108 c.f. The merchants also expect further supplies from Conjeevaram etc. and have promised to state at the end of the month definitely whether they will require arrangements to be made for the supply of the stock to themselves from Burma or elsewhere. No further action is necessary.

Possibility of tiding over the present difficulty by imports from Malabar or elsewhere (Para 3, p. 83 c.f.)

The Collector reports that according to the merchants the stock so far in the district now, including the recent imports from Malabar, Conjeevara and Mysore, will suffice to meet rural consumption right up to the end of the monsoon period and of urba consumption up to the end of July in any event, but will not suffice for the Kasargod taluk for the months July to September. The demand for the Kasargod Tk amounts to 90,000 measures or 3,600 tons. The merchants suggest that the Government themselves should make arrangements to get some quantity of rice from Burma and store it. The Collector considers that there is no immediate necessity for such a scheme but as it is obvious that by the beginning of July there will be shortage it would be desirable to have a scheme ready to be put into effect as soon as the circumstances require it.

The Collector's scheme. (pp. 102-105 c.f.)

Stated briefly the scheme is that the Govt. should finance the purchase of about 1,000 tons of rice from Burma or from surplus districts of the Province and the stock should be kept in the custody of the Tahsildar, Mangalore. The stock is then to be distributed on indent to the several co-operative stores in the district for sale to members and non-members. The issue price of the stock is to be fixed by the Tahsildar and the selling price in each store by the Dy. Registrar of Co-operative Societies with the approval of the Collector. A clerk will be required to keep accounts and a watchman for the godowns. Submittted that there seems to be no necessity for Government to finance the scheme as the other districts similarly situated will have to be treated in the same manner.

The Collector promises to write to the Govt. again at the beginning of June 1941 if the merchants want arrangements to be made for the supply of stocks

S.No (4F)
C...3578F1
For secy
urgent.

to themselves to tide over the period from July to October 1941. As pointed out by Secretary on p. 17 ante there seems to be no urgent demand for rice. The P.M.O. has already supplied the Kanara Chamber of Commerce with necessary information about the main sources of supply in the Presidency and it is up to the trade to obtain the necessary supplies if and when required.

This seems to be the real position, as we anticipated. p 5c cf. CM

Quite so CM

Submitted that after orders are passed a reply may be sent to the Collector and the file closed.

A

14/5/41

7M 15/5 CM 16/5/41

S

A.S

A_2

A draft reply to the Collector of South Kanara is submitted with reference to 'A' above. The press cutting at p 110 cf is for perusal.

last sen. of p b on 1

Submitted that after issue the papers may be recorded. The further report promised by the Collector early in June at 'A' on p. 105 cf. may be watched with the help of an entry in the Remainder Diary against 7-6-41.

7M B

A_2

17/5/41

7M 17/5 CM 17/5/41

S. No. 945. 0/20 5.41

Abstract

Economic condition - South Kanara Dt. - Rice - Shortage - Import of stocks from Burma and surplus areas in the Presidency - Arrangements - correspondence with the Collr., Controller of Shipping & D.A. - pps. record

(L)

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Development Department.

MEMORANDUM No. 4765.F/41-19 dated the 29th March 1941.

Economic condition - Rice - Supplies.

In connection with the threatened shortage of rice in the Malabar District on account of the reduced imports from Burma the Director of Agriculture was asked to acquaint the Madras market with the situation in Malabar and to arrange for supplies, if possible, from surplus sources in this Presidency through the Provincial Marketing Officer. Copies of his note dated 18th February 1941 and of his further report dated 15th March 1941 submitted with reference to the Government's enquiry whether there were any further movements of rice to Malabar and whether supplies could be arranged to that district from places like Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Conjeevaram are communicated to the Director of Industries and Commerce. The Director of Industries and Commerce is requested to ascertain as definitely as is practicable with the staff at his disposal the movements of rice to the West Coast and to keep in touch with the Collector of Malabar and to help the merchants in that district to obtain further supplies, if required with the assistance, if necessary, of the Provincial Marketing Officer.

2. The Government consider that the movements of paddy and rice in the whole Province should be carefully ascertained so that steps may be taken if necessary towards the conservation and proper distribution of the available supplies. It is the duty of the Collector and his staff in each district to watch the state of the markets and to ascertain the causes of any local scarcity. Collectors are requested to submit to the Board of Revenue, until further instructions, a report twice a month on the state of supplies of paddy and rice in their respective districts. The Director of Industries and Commerce is requested to report to the Board twice a month on the state of the markets and the movements of stocks and the trend of imports into and exports from the Province both by rail and sea. The Board is requested to instruct Collectors and the Director of Industries and Commerce in regard to the dates on which their reports should reach the Board and to submit to the Government a review of the situation on the 10th and 25th of every month.

C.P. Karunakara Menon,
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To the Board of Revenue.
To all Collectors (Para 2 only except to Malabar).
To the Director of Industries & Commerce (with enclosure).
To the Director of Agriculture.

F o r w a r d e d
(By order)

N. Muthusamy
Superintendent. 29/3/41.

PNM./29.3.41/T.

(G)

Copy of letter from the Collector of South Kanara,

Pdl.No. 398(4)-41-A5 dated 17th March 1941.

War - Prices - control - Advisory committees - Fortnightly report - Fortnight ending 15-3-41 - submitted.

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Govt. Memo No. 12614-40-2 dated 22-5-1940.

A enclose a statement showing the dates on which each Taluk Advisory Committee met and published fair prices during the fortnight under report and the previous fortnight. All the committees have met at least once during the last one month.

2. There has been of late a sharp rice in the price of rice and matches. The rise in the price of rice is on account of keen demand for the commodity from Malabar. The usual supply from Burma could not also be got to this district for want of shipment. In some parts of the District undue profiteering is also noticed. I have directed all the Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars to look for cases of profiteering and report them for action. The Taluk Advisory Committees have been requested to consider the whole aspect of the question while fixing fair prices for the essential commodities. In this connection my report Ref.C.No. 1759-41-A5, dated 16.3.41 may be perused.

3. As regards the rise in the price of matches, it is reported that it is due to the increase in the wholesale price charged by the manufacturers and that there is no profiteering on the part of the merchants. I am watching the situation and shall take prompt action in the matter when necessary.

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(2)

Copy of letter No.160-M.I.W.(11)/40 dated 20th February 1941 from the Government of India, Department of Commerce.

I am directed to enclose a copy of a Press Communique, which has been issued by the Government of India, regarding the supply of shipping for the transport of Burma rice. There is no doubt that shipping available during the next two or three months will be sufficient to carry only about one-half of the normal imports during those months, which normal imports are approximately 700,000 tons. It is hoped that more shipping will be available later, and it is understood that if this is the case existing stocks will be fully sufficient until such larger shipments become available. At the same time, in times of war it is necessary to look ahead and to plan as carefully as may be for such economies in the use of shipping as may be possible, and in respect of such planning the Government of India desire to elicit the help of Provincial Governments.

2. One method in which shipping could be economized is by allowing shipments only to Madras and carrying the rice from there by rail to the areas ordinarily served from West Coast ports. The possibility of this is being investigated by the Railway Department, but I am to request that the views of your Government may be given in so far as your province is concerned.

3. Further possibilities which seem to merit consideration are --

(a) the import of rice into certain provinces from areas in Madras in which it is stated some surplus is available. The views of your Government on the possibility of such imports meeting any deficiency in the imports of Burma rice would be helpful;

(b) the encouragement of planting early rice (particularly perhaps in substitution for such surplus crops as jute in Bengal), and I am to request that the advice of your Government as to whether any increase in supplies is likely to be forthcoming from such substitution.

4. I am also to ask that your Government would give as accurate information as may be possible on the following matters:-

(a) The normal imports of Burma rice into your province (or parts of the province);
(b) If availability of shipping had remained normal whether any increase or decrease of such normal imports would have been anticipated this year and, if so, the extent of such increase or decrease?
(c) The month or months by which at the latest imports of Burma rice are likely to be required and the amounts required in each month;
(d) Whether there is any possibility of substitution of imports from other provinces for imports from Burma?

5. The Government of India apprehend that in the circumstances set out in paragraph 1 of this communication, it is probable that the wholesale and retail prices of rice will show an increase in the course of the next few weeks. They feel, however, that as the rise of prices is likely to be an all-India one, local control of rice prices out of line with measures taken elsewhere is bound to result in preventing the free movement of rice by rail and in increasing the difficulties of maintaining local supplies. It may prove necessary to concert an all-India policy in future, but at this stage the Government of India desire to stress the undesirability of premature local action.

25 MAR 1941

Sectt. II-51—8,000—19-10-39.

Public Works Department.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. *Name of Paper*— Hindu
2. *Published at*— Madras
3. *Dated*— 21/3/41

Development (Price Control) V. S. R 24/3/41

CONTROL OF PRICE OF RICE

MALABAR COLLECTOR'S ASSURANCE TO DEPUTATIONISTS

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MANGALORE, March 18.

Messrs. S. N. Holla, K. Krishna Rao, K. Keshava Kamath, Narayana Shetty and Vijaya Suvarna, on behalf of various labour unions in Mangalore, waited on Mr. M. V. Subramanyan, Collector of South Kanara, to represent the hardships caused to labourers and other poor people on account of the rise in the prices of rice and other necessities and to request him to control the prices and arrange to supply outside rice to the district if necessary.

The Collector informed the deputationists that he had already circularised a note to the effect that the recent rise in price of rice had been attributed to the absence of Burma rice. Now that Burma rice had reached Malabar, instructions had been given to the Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars that primary producers, wholesale merchants and retail merchants, holding up stock and putting up prices should be warned that they were liable to be proceeded against under the Defence of India Rules for "Profiteering".

The officers had been informed that the whole aspect of the question should be reviewed at the next meeting of the price advisory committees.

Dev Dept.

A.S.

Subs. for perusal.

25/3/41.

25/3/41

74 GM 26/3 26/3/41 S

original in file En:o765 Flag not put up.

Copy of letter Ref.No.4765-F-33, Development, dated 8-5-1941, to the Indian Shipping Adviser, Ahmedabad House, Ittet Road, Ballard Estate, Bombay.

Sub:- Economic condition - Rice - Imports from Burma - Ref. your letter No.S.A.(B)-1/30, dated 23-4-41.

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your letter quoted above. It is observed that no shipments have been received by the Mangalore port. As the Controller of Shipping, Calcutta, has so far not been able to arrange for a shipment of 2,000 tons required by Mangalore, the situation there is causing anxiety. The port is due to close on 15-5-1941.

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23/5

No. S.A. (B)1/43.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Bombay, the 20th May 1941.

From

The Indian Shipping Adviser,
Ahmedabad House, Witted Road,
Ballard Estate, Bombay.

To

The Secy. to the Govt. of Madras,
Development Department,
Fort St. George, Madras.

Subject:- Import of Burma Rice.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence on the above subject resting with your letter No. 4765-F-33, dated the 8th May 1941, I have the honour to enclose herewith copies of replies received by me from the Conference Lines in answer to my enquiries in regard to rice supplies to Mangalore.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

INDIAN SHIPPING ADVISER.

Copy of letter No. C/682 dated the 12th May 1941 from M/s.British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Bombay, to The Indian Shipping Adviser, Bombay.

We are in receipt of your letter dated the 12th instant forwarding copy of a letter dated the 8th idem addressed to you by the Secretary to the Government of Madras regarding rice supplies to Mangalore. We have forwarded a copy of your communication to the Managing Agents in Calcutta to deal with the question of allocating tonnage to various trades.

Copy of letter dated the 13th May 1941 from Messrs. The Scindia Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Bombay to The Indian Shipping Adviser, Bombay.

We are in receipt of your letter No . S.A.(B)-1/33 of 12th instant enclosing copu of letter No. 4765F-33 dated 8. 5. 1941 received by you from the Secretary to the Government of Madras in regard to shipment of rice for Mangalore.

In reply, we have to advise you that it is not likely that we will have a sailing to Mangalore in the near future. We cannot meet such requirements unless the Government releases a few of our ships.

Copy of letter dated 14th May 1941 from Messrs. The Asiatic Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Bombay, to the Indian Shipping Adviser, Bombay.

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. S.A(B)-1/38 dated 12th May and regret we have no steamer at present available to load Rice from Rangoon to Mangalore.

Copy of letter No. C/666 from Messrs. The

British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Bombay to the Indian Shipping Adviser, Bombay.

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With reference to your letter dated 8th instant in connection with rice supplies for Mangalore, we would advise having referred this question to the Company's Managing Agents in Calcutta whose reply under date 15th instant quotes an extract from the Company's Agents in Rangoon to Calcutta and which reads as follows:-

> " On receipt of your wire of the 25th ultimo we again enquired of shippers here what demand there was for Mangalore. We received the same reply as before, namely that if a steamer was berthed they would ship but they were more concerned in getting additional tonnage to other Malabar ports. We also consulted the other members of the Conference regarding this and it was felt that as shippers were not pressing for the port and also particularly in view of the fact that Mangalore closes about the middle of this month the Conference could not recommend the berthing of a steamer for this port until after the moonsoon."

pp 71, 80 & 96-98 (L)

We pass on this for your information.

Secy. Dept

A.S.

80 1-6 above

Subs. for perusal. may be stitched with Fo. No. 8645 dtd. 20-5-41 at (L).

23.5.41 RA 23/5/41

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